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## JUDGE GEORGE G. WRIGHT.

BY HON. B. F. GUE.\*

The following article has been extracted from a paper read by the writer at the reunion of the Pioneer Law Makers' Association of Iowa, held at Des Moines on the 10th day of February, 1898. A paragraph has been added to include a mention of Mrs. Wright who died on the 27th of June, 1897.

George G. Wright is a name which for half a century has been familiar to the public in our State, and for forty years has been as widely known, and as intimately associated with Iowa progress and its current history, as any in her long roll of honored public officials. All the mature years of a long and busy life were passed in this, the land of his choice. His father, John Wright, died at Bloomington, Indiana, in 1825, when his son George G. was but five years of age. At sixteen he was admitted into the State University, and graduated in 1839. His oldest brother, Joseph A. Wright, was then a rising young lawyer, located at Rockville, where George entered his office, and began his law studies. His brother was elected to congress four years later, serving three terms, was governor of the state two terms, and afterwards minister to Prussia.

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\*Benjamin F. Gue was born in New Baltimore, Greene county, New York, December 25, 1828. His mother was of English and his father of French Huguenot descent. The family removed to Farmington, Ontario county, where he passed his childhood and youth. He was educated in the common schools and at Canandaigua Academy. He came west in 1852, settling on a farm in Liberty township, Scott county. He was a delegate in the first Republican State convention which was held at Iowa City in February, 1856. He served two terms in the Iowa House of Representatives (1858-'60), and four years (1862-'66) in the State Senate. Removing to Fort Dodge, Iowa, in 1864, he engaged for some years in journalism, and was elected Lieutenant Governor. President Grant appointed him Pension Agent at Des Moines, and he was reappointed by President Hayes. He now (1900) resides in Des Moines.

George was admitted to the bar in 1840, and in September of that year he started for the new territory of Iowa. It was a long trip down the Wabash and Ohio rivers, and up the Mississippi by steamboat, and across the wild prairie by stage coach, to the new frontier town of Keosauqua, which had been platted three years before. A few log houses had been erected, and it had just been made the county seat of Van Buren county. But one term of court had been held in the little log village, and it was a most unpromising place in which to make a living by law practice. But at twenty a young man is full of hope and enthusiasm, and this "Hoosier" youth could see in the not distant future visions of fame and fortune awaiting the studious, energetic law student, who was willing to work and wait. From the start young Wright won friends by his genial manners, his cordial ways, his hopeful disposition and studious habits. Two years after his arrival he was nominated by the whigs for prosecuting attorney, and elected.

Joseph A. Wright, the older brother, was a staunch democrat, but George G. was a whig, and also took an active interest in politics. In 1848 he was nominated by his party for State Senator, and elected for the term of four years. He soon won recognition as an able legislator, and was in 1850 made a member of the joint committee on the revision of the laws of the State which resulted in the code of 1851.

Judge Robert Sloan, of Keosauqua, an old friend and neighbor of Judge Wright, thus speaks of the lawyers he met in legal conflicts as a young man just entering upon the practice of his profession in 1841:

At this first of the courts where his name appears as transacting legal business there were present: Hugh T. Reid, R. Humphreys, Alfred Rich, J. W. Woods, Oliver Wild, I. N. Lewis, S. W. Somers, David Rorer, James W. Grimes, H. W. Starr and J. C. Hall. Judge Wright had six cases at this term, and from this time the record shows that his business rapidly increased, and during the next few years James B. Howell, J. C. Knapp and Augustus C. Hall were added to the bar.

My object in giving the names of those who practiced in the Van Buren district court is to show the men with whom he was associated and



against whom he had to contend when he entered the practice. James W. Grimes, J. C. Hall, David Rorer, Henry W. Starr, N. H. Starr, J. W. Woods, and Hugh T. Reid, had quite an extensive practice there until Iowa was admitted to the Union, and the mention of the above names is only necessary for any one to observe that they were among the ablest lawyers Iowa ever produced. When we remember the age of the Judge, and the rapid growth of his practice, it is evident that he developed very early the qualities which afterwards so distinguished him as a jurist and advocate.

In the fall of 1850 he was nominated by the whigs of the first congressional district, which then embraced the south half of the State, for representative. Bernhart Henn was the democratic candidate, and as the district had a clear democratic majority he was elected.

In 1853, when Gen. George W. Jones was re-elected to the United States senate, George G. Wright received the votes of the whig members of the general assembly, though he was but 33 years of age. Young as he was, he had become the acknowledged leader of his party in the State. In 1855, when but 35 years of age, he was elected one of the supreme judges, and for fifteen years served the State in that position with marked ability. Among his associates on the bench during this period were Judges W. G. Woodward, N. W. Isbell, L. D. Stockton, Caleb Baldwin, Ralph P. Lowe, John F. Dillon and C. C. Cole, all of whom were jurists of distinguished ability.

It will be generally conceded that during the period from 1855 to 1870 the highest judicial tribunal of Iowa was called upon to settle the most important legal contentions that have ever been brought before our State supreme court.

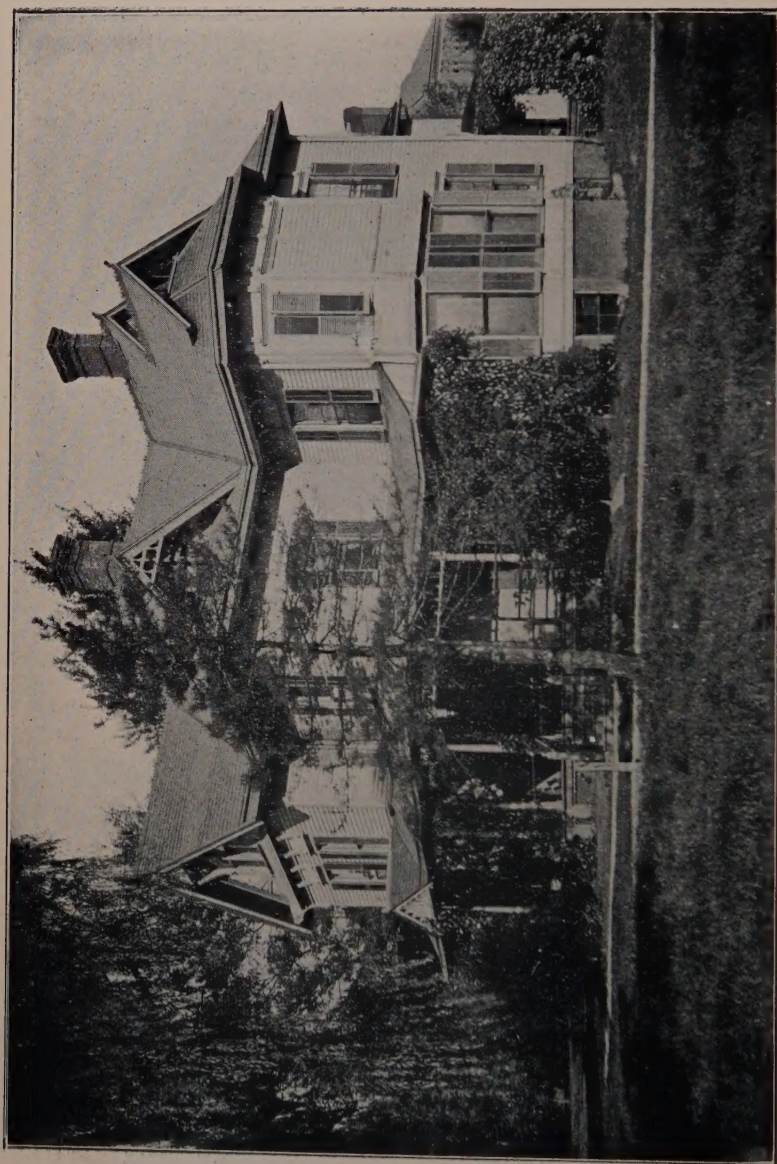
The code of 1851 presented many legal problems then unsettled by the court of last resort; the new constitution of 1857 embraced many radical changes in our organic law; the creation of a board of education with legislative powers; the acts of the seventh general assembly, the first under the new constitution; the new code of civil and criminal procedure of 1860, the remodeling of our judiciary system; the numerous complicated questions arising out of the various land

grants; the new banking system; the beginning of the era of great corporations for railroad building, and other purposes—all of these problems affecting the interests of the people and the State, came before the supreme court in various phases during this period of Judge Wright's long term of service. How ably and equitably the conflicting contentions were settled by this tribunal, is a matter of history that reflects the highest honor upon the eminent judges who were members of that court in this formative period of Iowa jurisprudence.

In 1870 one of the notable senatorial contests in the ranks of the republican party took place. William B. Allison, a young member of congress from the Dubuque district, who was serving his fourth term as representative, and had won a high reputation, was brought out as a candidate from northern Iowa for the United States senate. From the time the republican party had come into control of the State in 1856, the United States senators chosen by it had all been residents of the south half of the State. In the approaching election of a successor to James W. Grimes, a powerful combination was made by leading republicans of northern Iowa to secure the new senator in that section, and William B. Allison was chosen as their candidate. But the friends of Judge Wright, from all portions of the State, were urging his election as a suitable successor to Grimes. The contest became very warm throughout the entire State. Allison's supporters had a formidable advantage in location, and used it with great effect. A majority of his support came from the north half of the State. But as the contest progressed, the wide acquaintance and great personal popularity of Judge Wright was found to be making serious inroads upon northern Iowa, in spite of the eloquent appeals of Allison's supporters to stand firm for northern representation in the senate. But nothing could check the enthusiasm of the hosts of friends of Judge Wright, who flocked to the capital from all parts of the State, as the legislature convened, to work for the elec-







THE RESIDENCE OF THE LATE JUDGE GEORGE G. WRIGHT, ON PLEASANT STREET, DES MOINES, IOWA.

tion of their old-time friend. The pressure became irresistible, and when the caucus convened Judge Wright was nominated on the first formal ballot. There was probably not another man in Iowa who could have won the nomination over William B. Allison, who has for a long time been the acknowledged leader of the United States senate. It was not the work of politicians, but the unbounded personal popularity, based upon his exalted public services, his commanding ability, and his stern integrity, that placed George G. Wright in the senate.

During the six years' term he won a high position in that body, serving on the committees on judiciary, finance, revision of the laws, claims, civil service, and retrenchment. He declined a re-election, preferring to return to the work of his chosen profession, for which he always had an abiding love.

This ended his official public services, which had been almost continuous for a period of thirty years. In the practice of his profession he had been first a member of the law firm of Knapp & Wright, in Keosauqua. Joseph C. Knapp was an eminent lawyer, who became United States district attorney, and afterwards a district judge. Henry Clay Caldwell, who later became a member of the firm, was a representative in the legislature of 1860; colonel of the Third Iowa cavalry in the war of the rebellion; was appointed by President Lincoln United States district judge, and has for a long time been an eminent judge of the United States circuit court of appeals. Before the close of his term in the senate, Judge Wright became a member of the law firm of Wright, Gatch & Wright, the latter his eldest son, Thomas S. Colonel C. H. Gatch was for two terms a prominent member of the state senate.

In 1881 the firm was composed of Judge Wright, T. S. Wright, A. B. Cummins, and Carroll Wright. In 1887 he finally retired from practice in his profession, having served two years as president of the American Bar association. In 1865 Judge Wright removed from his old home at Keo-



sauqua and settled with his family in Des Moines. In the fall of that year, with Judge C. C. Cole, he established the first law school west of the Mississippi river. After the first year Prof. W. G. Hammond accepted a position with them, giving his entire time to instruction in the school. In 1868 the law school was removed to Iowa City, and by action of the regents became the law department of the State University, Judges Wright and Cole becoming law lecturers of the department.

Up to the last year of his life, Judge Wright took a deep interest in the University, and especially in the law department, which he had helped to establish. His lectures to the students were filled with wholesome advice, wise counsel, and sound enunciation of the fundamental principles of the science. His last lecture given before the law department was in June, 1896, and in it he refers with deep feeling, in eloquent and pathetic words, to the work of the pioneer law-makers, who had in early times been his associates in laying the foundations of our State and its institutions. His closing sentences were as follows:

Our State may challenge any other for the economy of its administration, the ability and wisdom shown in the conduct of public affairs. If we look to those framing our constitution, making and revising our laws, and administering justice in our courts, we shall see how large a responsibility has rested upon our pioneers. No class of men have been more devoted to their State; none more faithful to their obligations; none more proud of its history and position, civil and military, in the great federal family. I love to think of the old guard, the steady march of the old column. I look over our constitution and statutes and there see the impress of their minds. I look abroad at our schools, our colleges and public institutions, and find in them noble monuments of their liberality and public spirit. I inquire for the master spirits who passed through the early days and trials of frontier life, and find the old guard ever in the van doing their whole duty. Those gone, and many of them living, animated by hope or depressed by care, often weighed down by sickness, or old age, or business depression, have performed a noble part in building here a happy, prosperous and free State, with institutions unexcelled, and a name which challenges the admiration of men everywhere.

Soon after I was requested to prepare this paper, I wrote



my old friend, Judge John F. Dillon, who was long associated with Judge Wright on the supreme bench, to send me his opinion of our departed president as a lawyer and a judge. The following is his reply:

NEW YORK, FEBRUARY 4, 1898.

*Hon. B. F. Gue, Des Moines, Iowa:*

MY DEAR GOVERNOR:—I have the pleasure to acknowledge receipt of your valued favor of January 30th. I comply with your special request to give you in a page my views concerning my old friend and former associate, the late Chief Justice George G. Wright.

I esteem it one of the felicities of my professional career that I was associated for six years with Judge Wright on the supreme court bench of the State of Iowa. It is scarcely necessary for me to express my opinion of his learning as a lawyer, and his merits as a judge. No difference of opinion on this subject, so far as I know, ever existed among the bar and the people of Iowa. The verdict of the bar on this subject, is that, take him all in all, he had no equal among the State's chief justices or judges in her judicial history. Some of them may have had, in special and exceptional lines, superior gifts, or superior learning, but as I have just said, take him all in all, he easily stands conspicuous and foremost. To those who served on the bench with him, and to the bar who practiced during the period of his long connection with the court, the reasons for this are not difficult to find. I may refer to some of them briefly and without elaboration.

First among these reasons may be mentioned his zeal and conscientiousness in the performance of his official duties. As chief justice he was always present; and, having control of the deliberations of the court, would never consent to adjourn any term until every case which had been argued or submitted was considered. The period of my association with him was when there was no rule requiring the records and arguments to be printed. They were mostly in writing. Judge Wright was a rapid and most excellent reader; and his invariable habit during our consultations, in all cases submitted, was, first to take up the argument of the appellant; read it; next the argument of the appellee; then any reply, referring to the record whenever necessary; then to insist on a full discussion and a vote. I believe I may safely affirm that no case was decided during these six years that I was on the bench without this "formula" having been complied with. No case was assigned, previous to full consideration among the judges, for examination and an opinion by a single judge. I verily believe that the admitted excellence of the judgments of the supreme court of Iowa during the period of Judge Wright's incumbency of the office of chief justice, is due to the course of procedure above mentioned.

Another characteristic of Judge Wright was his intimate knowledge and memory of the legislation and course of decisions in the State. He was a living digest of these decisions. He carried in his memory every

important case that had ever been decided, and thus kept the lines of judicial decision consistent.

As a presiding officer he was without an equal. He had remarkable executive ability. He presided with dignity; maintained the utmost decorum in his court, and yet no member of the bar, I believe, ever felt that he was exacting, oppressive, or that he in any way encroached upon their legitimate rights and privileges. He had almost in perfection what I may call the "judicial temperament." He showed absolute impartiality, had great patience of research, and above all, a level-headed judgment, and strong, sure-footed common sense. Combining these merits and qualities with ample learning in his profession, it is no marvel that the bar of Iowa hold him and his memory in such deserved honor. I am very truly yours,

JOHN F. DILLON.

Such an estimate from one of the most eminent jurists and judges Iowa has ever produced, who has since his removal from our State won national fame in the profession, must forever fix the place Judge Wright will occupy in Iowa history.

It is as a judge of our highest court, that his fame will be most enduring.

In an address delivered at Iowa City, in February, 1896, Judge James H. Rothrock, late of the State supreme court, spoke as follows of Judge Wright:

The practice and administration of law, was really his life work. His other public work was temporary. It requires the closest application, earnest study, and untiring efforts of the lifetime of most men, to become distinguished lawyers. But Judge Wright was an exception to that rule. He was a man of diversified acquirements. Some men succeed at the bar who cannot acquire distinction upon the bench. Others who fail as trial lawyers, may become acceptable, and even great jurists. Judge Wright, in all the varied pursuits of life, as lawyer, judge, statesman, or in business affairs, was eminently successful. He was a master workman in every calling or position to which he devoted his attention. The young man of today who is in course of preparation for the bar, has the aid of law schools and access to vast law libraries. Judge Wright had none of these advantages. I do not think it extravagant to say, that there are now in the State, private law libraries which contain more volumes, than were to be found in all the Territory of Iowa, when Judge Wright made his beginning in the profession in 1840. In those days, more reliance was placed on the reasoning faculties, the power to analyze, and apply the law by logical lines of thought, and the application of principles underlying the issues involved in the controversy, than to resort to current opinions of others contained in text books and reports. I have sometimes thought, that while







MRS. MARY H. WRIGHT, 1890.



it was more difficult then than now, to rise to distinction at the bar, yet when eminence was once attained, it was far greater than in this generation. The pioneers in the law, were those who laid the foundations of the structure. The present jurisprudence of the country rests upon that groundwork.

George G. Wright did not grow old or antiquated in the law. He was fully abreast with the profession, when he was seventy years of age.

Three years after his admission to the bar, on the 19th of October, 1843, George G. Wright was united in marriage with Miss Hannah Mary Dibble, daughter of Hon. Thomas and Ruth Gates Dibble. Hannah M. was born in Saratoga county, New York, August 15, 1820, and lived there until she was seventeen years of age. Her father was a man of marked ability, and had been a member of the New York legislature. In 1837 he removed with his family to Van Buren county, then in the Territory of Wisconsin, settling on a farm near Keosauqua. He soon became a man of influence in that new country, and in 1846, when a convention was called to frame a constitution for the new State of Iowa, Mr. Dibble was chosen a member, and helped formulate the constitution under which it was admitted into the Union. Mrs. Wright inherited the intellectual endowments of her father, was an independent thinker, forming her own opinions of new problems presented, after intelligent investigation. She was conscientiously loyal to her own convictions of right and duty as she saw them, regardless of popular opinion. She was a noble and helpful companion for a husband who was destined to hold some of the most exalted official positions in the State and Nation; a companionship which remained unbroken for more than fifty-two years. Mrs. Wright was a woman of broad philanthropy, ever sympathetic and helpful. In war times, she was an active worker for the health and comfort of the soldiers. She was a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Women, and President of the Board of Managers of the Women's Christian Home at Des Moines. After the death of her husband, Mrs. Wright made her home with her daughter, Lucia, (Mrs.

E. H. Stone) in Sioux City, where she died on the 27th of June, 1897.

During his busy life, while professional and public duties were crowding upon him, Judge Wright took a deep interest in the industrial development of the State. In 1860, he was elected president of the State Agricultural Society, serving for four years, and always thereafter was one of the most influential and trusted advisers of its officers and managers. In 1879 he was elected a director in the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad company, a position which he held the remainder of his life.

After retiring from the practice of his profession, he was chosen president of the Polk County Savings bank, also president of the Security Loan & Trust Company, which position he held at the time of his death. For nearly six years he was the honored president of the Iowa Pioneer Lawmakers' Association, and I am confident that of all the honors that came to him during his long and busy life, this brought him the most unalloyed enjoyment. Here every member was an old acquaintance and friend. These reunions brought together his political associates, opponents and companions of youthful conflicts, defeats and triumphs. All of the animosities of partisan combats have long been buried in the lapse of years. The surviving actors in the fierce and bitter political rivalry of pioneer times, here meet as long separated members of one family, and clasp hands in friendship as they look upon the whitening hair and wrinkled brows from which youthful vigor and enthusiasm have departed. But passing years never cast a shadow of gloom over the sunny face of our late president. His cheerful greeting, his irrepressible fund of anecdote and wit, and happy rejoinders, were contagious and always enlivened our sessions. He could call every member by name, and knew every one's record in the past, his mental calibre and his peculiarities. He was one of the founders of the association and never missed a session. When the shadows of life's evening were gathering around him, his



thoughts wandered toward the companions of pioneer days.

The last letter that his hand inscribed was addressed to an officer of this association, relating to the approaching session, then but a few weeks away, in which he felt a deep interest. But before it assembled he had "passed over the river."

His home life was an ideal one. The sunshine that his presence carried into every group of which he was a part, was never obscured by passing shadows. The wife and mother, the children and grandchildren, were always cheered by his kindly greeting and the household was brightened by his coming. His friends and neighbors were sure of a cordial welcome. His pure, upright life was an inspiration to the young, and was the pride of his children. Three of his sons inherited the rare legal endowments of their father, and attained eminence in the profession before reaching middle life. Our great State has reared and developed many talented, useful and noble men and women. Their achievements have shed lustre upon its fair name. Among those who in early days wisely laid the foundation for the giant structure that has arisen like magic in a period of sixty years from a wild plain, the home of the Indian and buffalo, prominent and honored among its architects and builders will always stand the name of George G. Wright.

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WARNING TO NEGROES.—Notices have been printed, and will be served by the Marshal upon the "colored gentlemen" through the city, notifying them to leave the town within a certain specified time, in accordance with an act passed by the Legislature in 1850, prohibiting the importation of free negroes into the State of Iowa. So look out—"white man is mighty deceiving."—*Keokuk (Iowa) Times, June 27, 1857.*

## STEPHEN WHICHER.

BY GEORGE MEASON WHICHER.

Stephen Whicher, a lawyer of Muscatine, was one of the early settlers of Iowa, one of the ablest members of the territorial bar and a man of much influence at the formative period of the State. His life was unmarked by any extraordinary events or by any of those vicissitudes of fortune which would serve to point a sermon or adorn a history. As is not infrequently the case, the man was greater than his deeds; the impression which he made upon his contemporaries was much deeper than can be accounted for by any of his recorded acts or words. With that shrewd humor and nice sense of the fitness of things, which were among his marked qualities, he would himself be the first to deprecate an attempt to make him the subject of a formal biography. Yet his life was so characteristically American, and shows so clearly some of the forces which guided the development of the West in the first half of this century, that some account of it may not be devoid of interest, especially to those who care for the annals of early Iowa.

### I.

The majority of Whichers and Whittiers now living in America are the descendants of one Thomas Whittier, a Quaker lad, who came from Southampton, England, in 1638, as the "servant," or apprentice, of John Rolfe. He settled eventually at Haverhill, Mass., where he built the homestead afterward noted as the birth-place of his famous descendant, John Greenleaf Whittier. Nine children survived him, and they in turn left large families known as Whittiers, Whichers, Whityears—not to mention other phonetic vagaries framed by rural New England lips. Cheap land was, of course, the great boon which the wilderness bestowed upon the early settlers, and the Whittiers were not slower than their neighbors to push forward, in search of farms, to the





I am My Dear Sir  
Very respectfully  
Yrs Obedtly  
Steph. Whicher

STEPHEN WHICHER.



frontier along the north shore, and back into the valleys of southern New Hampshire. Plain country folks for the most part, their names rarely appear save in the short and simple annals of the sparsely settled towns; their lives seemingly were as simple, quiet, and industrious as befitted their Quaker ancestor. The necessities of pioneer life, however, must have led them gradually to abandon some of his peculiar tenets. Thomas had refused even the office of constable, which his fellow-townsmen had offered to confer upon him. But the New Hampshire Revolutionary Rolls contain the names of more than one Whittier who, at his country's call, forsook (if he had ever known) the doctrine of non-resistance.

The conquest of Canada by England in the middle of the eighteenth century opened up a new field for restless New England enterprise. The upper valley of the Connecticut, long the pathway of marauding bands of French and Indians, was thrown open for settlement, and soon the rich intervalles of the Green Mountains were filled with immigrants, land-hungry and eager to build their homes even in this debatable territory—debatable, for both New York on the west and New Hampshire on the east claimed the land by virtue of old grants. Many a stirring tale is told of the struggles of these two authorities and the hardy pioneers, who were quite ready to defy either or both, and who finally solved the difficulty by setting up a state of their own. About the year 1780 the little valley of Rochester, in the heart of the Green Mountains, was reached by this advancing tide of settlers. At that date a few enterprising woodsmen from the lower valley of the White River made their way thither to found a new town, and there, some twelve years later, appeared one Stephen Whitcher, said to have been born in Haverhill or Salem in 1772.

A pioneer community notoriously cares little about the previous history of its members. Strong hands and stout hearts are worth more than Norman blood in subduing the



wilderness and fighting the Indians; it is reserved for a less strenuous period to be curious about the past. And a man's own interest in his ancestors usually awakes only when his age of reflection begins—when he realizes that, whether for good or for ill, his character and career have been more profoundly affected by his ancestry than youth ever imagines. Stephen Whicher, Jr., the subject of this sketch, visited Vermont and Massachusetts in 1854, and seems to have made some attempt to trace his father's ancestry. He visited the poet Whittier, and there was some mutual recognition of "cousin-ship." Friends of Stephen Whicher even fancied that there was a personal resemblance between the two men. "He was a witty and cultured man," wrote the poet of his visitor some time afterwards,\* but neither then nor since has the relationship (which must be remote in any case) been definitely traced.

Stephen Whitcher, the elder, whoever his father may have been, was well enough approved at Rochester to marry into one of the leading families there. The Emersons were then, and have been ever since, prominent in local affairs, and they come from a stock in which the best New England traditions of piety, vigor, and intelligence have been faithfully preserved. Daniel Emerson (1753-1821) was the great-great-grandson of the Rev. Joseph Emerson (1620-1679), from whom were descended Ralph Waldo Emerson, and others of the name widely known as ministers, scholars, and men of affairs. In 1782 "Daniel Emerson with his family, consisting of his wife and four children, moved into town. Some stakes were driven into the ground, and a shanty built, in which they lived. During the season, the family, through fear of the Indians, used frequently to leave the shanty at night, and taking such articles as they could for a covering, hide themselves in the woods at the foot of the hill in the rear of the house, and spend the night sleep-

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\*Recollections of Mrs. M. L. Whitcher.





THE STEPHEN WHEELER FARM NEAR ROCHESTER, VERMONT.



ing in the open air.”\* Esther, a daughter of Daniel Emerson, and Stephen Whitcher, Sr., were married April 10, 1796, and settled on a small farm near the homestead of the bride’s father. And there, probably in a log cabin on the site of the house shown in the accompanying illustration, Stephen, the second of their fifteen children, was born May 4, 1798.

## II.

Boyhood on a New England mountain farm has never been described as a luxurious existence, and at the frontier one hundred years ago, it would be characterized by the boy himself as “considerable of a chore.” The first great perils of the wilderness—hostile Indians and starvation—were no longer to be feared. But to clear the land of the dense timber and the encumbering stones, to wring a living from the soil itself, as one must in these isolated settlements, were no easy tasks. Hard work, and much of it, was the lot of the settler and his family, and only the sturdiest frames and most resolute of characters could survive, much less prosper, in such circumstances. Once cleared the soil yielded abundantly; but a market for surplus products could be reached only by a long and toilsome journey. Wheat was sometimes hauled in wagons across the mountains to the thriving town of Albany. Maple sugar, then as now, was manufactured in considerable quantities for sale, and every farmer’s boy, no doubt, had some pelts to show for his skill in hunting and trapping. A standard article for barter at the trader’s store was potash, leached from the ashes of the woods that were burned when the fields were cleared. But for the most part little came to the farmer that he did not produce from his own land; his life was not only strenuous, but also very limited in its opportunities. Two elements in the New England character have helped save these remote and far from wealthy townships from the mental and moral stagnation

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\*Williams’ History of Rochester, Vt.

which, in other lands, has too frequently overtaken communities existing under similar circumstances: one, the Puritan piety, and the other, the carefully cherished tradition as to the value of an education. Happily for Stephen Whicher both of these were among the strongest influences under which his boyhood was passed. His mother possessed a sturdy nature and deep religious convictions, the true daughter of a line of deacons and faithful church members. Years afterwards a grandchild wrote of her: "She was truly the mother in our home, and obeyed by us all, from father down. She was a staunch Presbyterian; I have the Bible and hymn-book which she kept under her pillow. She always prayed three times a day, going off by herself and putting her little black silk shoulder shawl over her head. Often I have, as a child, slipped in clinging to her dress to hear her. A grand, beautiful, sturdy Christian character."\* As might be expected, this piety was deeply impressed upon the nature of her children. At least two of her sons became clergymen, one of them at length following the lead of Newman into the Catholic church; and all her children showed some traces of that religious fervor which is now too often slighted as old-fashioned Puritanism, but which so frequently kindled into effective life the best qualities of heart and brain alike. To the end of his life Stephen Whicher was a deeply religious man. The language of the Bible came naturally to his lips and pen; in his private correspondence and public speeches he adopts its phrases with all the unconsciousness of long familiarity. While living at Dayton, Ohio, he became an elder in the Presbyterian church. At Muscatine, for some reason unknown, he did not join his wife in becoming a "charter member" of the Congregational church; but he constantly attended its service, aided in the support of its pastor,† and was always deeply interested in its welfare. To

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\*Recollections of Mrs. H. E. Hovey.

†The homestead of Dr. A. B. Robbins, for over forty years the pastor of this church, was built on ground donated by Mr. Whicher.

the last he maintained the institution of family prayers. "No difference what there might be to attend to in business or anything else," wrote one of his sons, "*that* was never omitted within my memory."

In vital influence one must rank next to New England piety the Puritan reverence for learning. Where and when Stephen Whicher acquired his education is not known; a few weeks of training at the district school in the winter, and work on the farm for the rest of the year, made up the usual curriculum of most country lads; and it is not probable that in his youth he enjoyed anything more. The first school was provided for at Rochester in the year 1790. "At this early age of the history of the town, when it would seem that it required all their efforts to overcome the various obstacles in their path, incident to subduing the forest and rearing and providing a home for themselves and those dependent upon them, we find them voluntarily taxing themselves double the amount for schooling the children of the town, that was required to defray all other town expenses."\* By 1810 there were eight school districts. The site of one of the school-houses was on the banks of the White River, a few rods from the Whicher home, and here, beyond doubt, Stephen and his brothers and sisters, were instructed in the district-school fashion which is too familiar to need description. However limited such a schooling may have been, its opportunities were at least faithfully used. In the minor subjects of education—penmanship, spelling, grammar—Mr. Whicher's attainments were such as might shame many a college graduate of our more ambitious age. More than this, he had acquired a genuine respect for learning and a zeal in its pursuit, which stood him in good stead for the rest of his life. He was a constant reader, and no doubt made use of the free library opened at Rochester as early as 1801. One who remembers him in his later life describes him as "hav-

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\*Williams' History of Rochester, Vt.



ing always a book in his hand," and his writings show a fairly extensive acquaintance with history and literature. It is not known that he was ever able to attend college, as did one or two of his younger brothers. But, as will be seen, he sought opportunities for advanced study in his young manhood, and apparently they were not earned without some privation. "I should be much pleased," he wrote to a complaining school-boy, "that your food was better adapted to your accustomed indulgence and to your taste. But in this there is much in habit. The food of New England college boys is not so good as yours is. Most of them live on bean soup. I used to think myself fortunate when, instead of bean soup with coarse rye and corn bread, I could get milk and porridge. Healthful food is the main thing to be secured. All else is governed by habit."

In after years Mr. Whicher not infrequently expressed his regret that he had not been able to acquire a better education, and felt that he was seriously handicapped in his profession because of this lack of early advantages. Each of his own sons was in turn encouraged and aided (often at the cost of serious inconvenience) to acquire some part at least of that liberal education which their father coveted for them, the more eagerly, no doubt, because he had been deprived of it. Like many men who had missed a college training, he was somewhat inclined to over-estimate the profit, or at least the pleasure, to be derived from it. "I hope," he wrote to a discouraged college student, "that you will find your studies easier after you have become a little more accustomed to them. All Greek scholars unite in testifying to their pleasure in the study of that language after a few preliminary difficulties are surmounted!"

It may be doubted whether the ordinary course of Hellenic studies would have produced a higher type of culture than he achieved by his naturally alert mind, and quick appreciation of all that is excellent in literature and life. On most men whom he met he produced the impression—as in

the case of the poet Whittier—of a refined and cultivated man. Probably no one with whom he came in contact ever noticed that lack of a college training which he so keenly deplored.

### III.

Piety and a zeal for sound learning may aid one to bear poverty cheerfully, but they do not make it easier to support a large family on a New England farm; much less do they suppress the Yankee instinct to better one's condition. About 1812 Stephen Whicher, Sr., traded his Rochester farm for one in the township of Royalton, near the village of Bethel, and removed his family thither. His son "Steve" is still vaguely recollected by an elderly lady who has lived ever since on an adjoining farm; he worked for her father as the "hired man," and she had afterwards heard that he had "done well" in Iowa.

But this change of residence apparently did not secure what was desired. Then, as for long years afterwards, the prospect of cheap and fertile lands in the West lured the dissatisfied and the enterprising from their homes in the older communities. Land companies were organized to exploit the new country, and a steady stream of emigrants poured from the New England States along the great road through the valley of the Mohawk to the new states beyond. To bring the products of the prairies to the coast, the Erie Canal, one of the first great public works undertaken in America, was constructed, and prosperity seemed within the reach of all who had the courage to seek it. It could not have been an easy journey from the Connecticut to the shores of Lake Erie in those ante-railroad days; but about 1818 Stephen Whicher and his household made the toilsome march and settled on a farm near Westfield, Chautauqua county, New York.

It is possible that Stephen, the son, and his elder brother Jason had preceded the rest of the family; they were now entering upon young manhood and must make a place for

themselves in the world. For a century and more the lines of trade and travel, which now run west along the southern shore of Lake Erie, had turned to the south through the valley of the French Creek and the Alleghany River, and for fifty years the Ohio had been the artery through which the life blood of the nation had streamed toward the distant West. On its banks had mingled the two great currents of immigration—one the hardy Scotch-Irish from beyond the mountain-passes of Virginia and Pennsylvania, the other a stream setting southward from the hills of New England and New York. To “take timber down the river” had long been the ready way for a young man to begin his career, and by this method, apparently, the elder Whicher boys soon found their way to the thriving river settlements of Kentucky and Indiana. Where Stephen first settled is not known; probably, like most pioneers, he tried more than one place before finding a fixed residence. For a while he studied medicine, and for a while (being a genuine Yankee) he taught school; but at length he decided on the law as his profession. His first instructor is said to have been Amos Lane, a prominent lawyer of Lawrenceburg, Indiana, and in 1820 he was admitted to the bar by the judge of the Circuit court at Wayne county. A short trial of his chosen profession seems to have convinced him that he stood in need of further training, and so in the autumn of 1822 he went to the Law School of Transylvania University at Lexington, Kentucky.

This institution—now merged in the Kentucky University—was the first institution for higher learning incorporated west of the Alleghany Mountains. It had had a quarter century of rather troubled existence, but at this time was at the zenith of its fame and usefulness. Doctor Horace Holley, a well known Unitarian clergyman of Boston, had recently become president, and under his influence it rapidly increased in numbers and reputation. Lexington, moreover, was the home of Henry Clay, then one of the most



conspicuous figures in national affairs and soon to be candidate for the presidency of the United States. The town had been founded nearly fifty years before, and still retained some part of that cosmopolitan air which the historian ascribes to it at its foundation, when one might have seen "Puritans from New England; cavaliers from Virginia; Scotch-Irish from Pennsylvania; mild-eyed trappers and bargemen from the French hamlets of Cascaskia and Cohokia; wood-choppers; scouts; surveyors; swaggering adventurers; land-lawyers; colonial burgesses—all these mingled and jostled, plotted and bartered, in the shops, in the streets, under the trees."\* Cincinnati had long since begun to supplant it as a center of trade, but few other places in the growing West could pretend to as much political and social importance.

At Transylvania University Mr. Whicher attended President Holley's lectures on the "Philosophy of Mind," and followed the course of instruction at the Law School. In February, 1823, he was graduated in a class that numbered seventeen, among them several who afterwards attained distinction in state or national politics: Simeon H. Anderson and Aylette Buckner, who became members of Congress; Elijah Hise, who was member of Congress and United States Minister to Guatemala; Charles S. Morehead, who was elected governor of Kentucky, and Thomas B. Munroe, a leading jurist and judge. Another member of the class was the eldest son of the statesman, Theodore Wythe Clay, whose melancholy fate was yet undreamed of. Owing possibly to his intimacy with this class-mate, Mr. Whicher was privileged to continue his studies in Henry Clay's law office, though the senior partner himself was not his instructor. Later in

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\*James Lane Allen in *The Choir Invisible*. His hero, John Grey, is said to have been drawn from one McKinney, a school-teacher whom Robert Patterson induced to come to Kentucky; but his description might have been intended as a portrait of Stephen Whicher: "A young fellow of powerful build, lean, muscular—one who, having thus far won in the battle of life, has a fiercer longing for larger conflict, and whose entire character rests on the noiseless conviction that he is a man and a gentleman."

this same year he returned to Indiana, settling at the river town of Vevay; and in November he was admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of the State.

The social life of Lexington was, no doubt, most attractive to the eager and ambitious young man with all his New England hunger for the best in civilization and culture. "I must live among the Southrons," he wrote many years afterwards, when weary of the crudeness and meanness of a frontier post where "babbling politicians from the northern and middle states" seemed to over-run the country. But another tie was soon to connect him with the little Kentucky city, the Athens of the West. At Vevay Mr. Whicher became engaged to Miss M. E. Venable, whose father, Dr. Samuel Venable, had been a resident of Lexington, and whose mother, Margaret Patterson, was the daughter of one of its founders. Colonel Robert Patterson was among those dauntless pioneers who had followed Boone and Logan over the Wilderness Road into Kentucky at the time of the Revolution, and, in defiance of hostile Indians and the no less hostile British, had built their homes in the Dark and Bloody Land—a name that must have seemed indeed appropriate to those whose toils and privations and wounds saved it for the infant nation. Robert Patterson\* helped build the stockaded fort on the site named for the first battle of the Revolution, and there in 1786 was born his fourth child, afterwards Mrs. Venable. The Pattersons removed later to the vicinity of Dayton, Ohio; on their "Rubicon Farm," still owned by descendants, Stephen Whicher and Mary Venable were married July 20, 1826. They went to Vevay, where Mr. Whicher continued his law practice and gave instructions to private pupils. In 1828, with their infant son, they returned to Dayton and for a while made their home on a farm which was a part of the Patterson estate; but a short time afterwards they took up their residence in the town itself.

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\*For interesting anecdotes regarding him, see Roosevelt's *Winning of the West* II, 204-5.

## IV.

Of the next ten years of their life little record has been preserved. Men, like nations, are not least happy, however, in periods which afford no material for their biographers. More or less Mr. Whicher engaged in other business, as a young lawyer in a country town must needs do. An entry in his private account book shows that the variety rather than the extent of his business had begun to burden him: "I have now been doing business in this place about one year, and have attempted hitherto to keep my accounts in a ledger without any auxiliary book, but I find many inconveniences resulting from the practice;" and succeeding entries and other memoranda show how varied were the interests which occupied his attention. In politics he had become a strong Whig; if contact with the Clays had not made him such, his acquaintance with the Harrisons at North Bend had completed the work. An oration of his, preserved from this period, recalls an almost forgotten phase of American politics. It was delivered at New Carlisle, Ohio, in 1831, at a Masonic gathering, and shows that the speaker was greatly interested in the prevailing agitation against that society. In no unimpassioned phrase he proclaims the purity of its principles and the loftiness of its aims, protesting vigorously against the charge that the Masons had procured the kidnapping of Morgan, an event then still fresh in men's memory. This Anti-Masonic excitement, as students of American history will remember, did not die out until after the presidential election of 1832, when William Wirt, the candidate of the party, received the electoral vote of Mr. Whicher's native state, Vermont. At the time of his oration the conflict was at its height. Mr. Whicher, it may be added here, retained his interest in Masonry until his death. On this subject his old friend, Hon. T. S. Parvin, writes: "When we organized Iowa Lodge No. 2 of Free-Masons at Bloomington, I took a very active part. It was organized in February, 1841, and Mr. Whicher then made himself known



to me as a Mason; but for some personal reasons, which he gave me, he did not become a member. Two or three years later we organized a Chapter of R. A. M., which is a grade higher, and of this chapter he became a member. He attended the meetings of our chapter somewhat regularly; occasionally the meetings of the lodge; so that I know he retained his interest in Masonry even, as I believe, up to the period of his death."

In 1838 Mr. Whicher had arrived at the age of forty years. By constant study and unwearying diligence he had attained a fair degree of eminence in his profession; he was enjoying a sufficient income and his abilities were known and respected in a much wider circle than the community in which he lived. His own social qualities and his fortunate marriage had surrounded him with friends and kinsmen who were eager to advance his interests and to whom he was bound by many ties. Four children—three sons and one daughter—were now in his household, and it was the thought of their future, the hope of acquiring wealth for their sakes, that weighed most with him in deciding upon another change of residence. And again it was the still newer West, with its cheaper and more fertile lands, that seemed to promise a rapid prosperity. The territory of Iowa had just been separated from Wisconsin, though a treaty made with the Sac and Fox Indians had thrown the western bank of the Mississippi open to settlement as early as 1833. Even before this later date squatters had ventured to settle on lands across the stream, at the risk of having their cabins burned down and their families and belongings forcibly transported to the eastern shore by the United States soldiers. By 1838, however, settlements had been made at Burlington, Bloomington, Davenport, and points further north, and the surrounding land was rapidly partitioned among the immigrants even before it had been legally surveyed and offered for sale by the United States. Some of these river towns were evidently destined to become places of considerable importance

commercially and politically. In the autumn of this year Mr. Whicher determined to investigate their prospects with a view to removal to the most promising. Taking a light wagon and a couple of horses he started overland on the long journey. His letters written while absent on this tour are full of graphic details, and (with omission of purely personal matters) some of them are presented here.

## V.

ON THE PRAIRIE IN ILLINOIS, 23 SEP., 1838.

You can have no idea of the appearance of a prairie by reading—they must be seen and felt before one can realize their appearance. I will begin where I left you at Covington, (Ind.), from which place I sent you my journal by private conveyance. I crossed the Wabash in a ferry-boat; it was about three times as wide as Main street, Dayton, and from one to two feet deep, as smooth as a mirror and as clear as crystal. Landing on the west shore I stopped to eat wild grapes; they were not much better than our wood-grapes, but were about twice as large. A ride of twenty miles brought me to Danville, Ill., where is a land office and some three or four hundred inhabitants. I dined and then took a north-western direction toward Ottawa; my general course was up the Vermillion, a branch of the Wabash. I must go back a little; after crossing the Wabash I entered a prairie called Mound Prairie, because its sides throughout its whole extent are elevated about twenty feet above the surrounding level. The eye on a clear day will reach over an extent of eight to fifteen miles, when the vision will be bounded by a well defined line of elevated green foliage, known here as "timber;" above and beyond that is the sky. A breeze, as delightful as can be imagined of Paradise, brings the odors of a thousand sweets. The rose will give but a faint idea of the richness of the perfume. Away in the distance can be seen as it were a dot, which proves on approach to be a rider on horseback. Three or four of these riders at different points will seem to animate the whole scene. A fox, a wolf, or a deer springs from the grass before one, and bounds away, starting a flock of wild geese here, a flock of cranes there, which drag their ponderous bodies high on elastic wings, secure from danger from below, and filling the air with their harsh music; while ever and anon the prairie hen springs on whirring wing and sails away, skimming the tops of grass and flowers until lost in the distance. Nor are the minor and sweeter songsters of the valleys less numerous than in the fields of the more eastern sections. The field-lark, the ground bird, the yellowhammer, etc., etc., add their offering to the animated scene. The prairie hen is about the size of a half-grown domestic hen, with the general appearance of our quail. The first one I saw sprang from the path just before me into a small tussock or tuft of grass. I sprang from my horse, threw my whip-lash around the grass which partially hid it from my view, and I had it secured in my hand in a moment. I carried it some miles, but its struggles to escape induced me to ring its neck. I left it at a tavern, where it will no doubt be cooked by the time I return.

Well, I departed from Danville through a wilderness of prairie called the Grand Prairie of Illinois. It is of almost illimitable extent and gives rise to the principal rivers of the state. Its outline is irregular, like the map of Greece, and it is half the length of the state—from forty-five to fifty miles wide. The traveler in crossing touches along from one point of timber to another where a cabin or two is erected and a small patch

cultivated. Such heavy growth of corn I never saw anywhere. The ears are of most perfect fulness; husky-white, while the leaf and stock are perfectly green. The tobacco stands in the fields untouched by frost. The cattle and hogs are fat and healthy. Every cabin is a house of entertainment. In passing from one of these points to another I got belated. I took the open prairie and rode until late at night. The horse refused to follow the trail and it was so dark I could not see it. The horse wandered and I lost my course, and could not see the face of my compass. I searched for fire-flies for light, but was unfortunate in this. It rained hard, like an equinoctial storm as it was. I turned my horse loose and lay down to sleep. Towards morning it turned very cold. Then, farewell sleep. There was not a dry thread on me, and having eaten nothing that might be called food for more than forty-eight hours, I was anything but comfortable. It was not until broad daylight that I could find my course.

The whole country between here and Danville, eighty miles, is sickly, and is being deserted. The people are panic-stricken. Pontiac, the county seat of Livingston county, is wholly deserted. I shall leave here tomorrow for the mouth of the Vermillion, where is the starved rock, La Salle, Ottawa, the great canal, the great railroad, and the great prospect for commercial wealth.

OTTAWA, 26 SEP.

The land sales in this country come on in the middle of November. Money is very scarce. One hundred per cent per annum can be got for any amount from \$100 up to hundreds of thousands. I shall go hence to Prairie du Chien to try to sell my horses. My health is good.

PRAIRIE DU CHIEN, 7 OCT., 1838.

I have already told you that this is a pretty, a beautiful, a charming and a delightful country. What should I say more? How much more could I say? I will only add that these impressions of its beauty continue. I am now at the uppermost point on the Mississippi that is inhabited by civilized citizens. All above this are savages, and a floating population of whites scarcely distinguishable from them. Five thousand visitors are here from different parts of the Union. Such is the demand for articles of Indian manufacture that everything that could be carried is gone. I cannot get anything lighter than a canoe. I have traveled a thousand miles, (*sic*). Susan and Lady Jackson (*his horses*) are pretty much worn down. I am offered two hundred dollars for them and shall probably take it, if I cannot get more, and buy a Comanche pony of Gov. Dodge. By-the-way, I called on Gen. Jones and Gov. Dodge, and was treated with polite attention. I shall go directly from here to the mouth of the Rock River, thence to Burlington by way of Bloomington, and then straight home. Shall leave here for down the river to-morrow morning in the steam-boat Ariel.

BLOOMINGTON, IOWA T., OCT. 18, 1838.

I got on board the steam-boat Ariel at Prairie du Chien, went up the Mississippi half a day to Painted Rock, returned and came down about two hundred miles to the upper rapids, where the boat stuck fast on the rocks, where she now lies. I have about fifteen bushels of Galena potatoes aboard which I intended for our own use. The boat will lie there until the water rises. After waiting several days for the boat I bought a canoe and arrived here last night (forty miles) about 9 o'clock, in the midst of the severest snow storm that ever happened here at this season of the year. To-day it rains hard; the waters will soon rise. This is a splendid country. Great changes in regard to the pecuniary concerns of the people and the prospects of this Territory have taken place within the last week. Any amount of funds two weeks ago (I mean hundreds of thousands) might have been disposed of at one hundred per cent per annum.



Now a company is here from Pennsylvania with about two millions, and is making contracts of loan at twenty-five per cent. You cannot easily imagine the change in the appearance of the occupants of the lands, from despondency to cheerfulness. Nearly a million and a half of acres of land will be sold in this Territory at the ensuing land sales.

The town plot (Bloomington) was divided into 16 shares and sold for a sum equal to about three dollars a lot. I have no doubt but they will average \$300 in less than five years. It will undoubtedly be a town of great importance in trade, and will probably be the seat of government. I have seen many people here whom I have known in other countries. Many substantial farmers are settled here, and I have seen some families of high polish from the city of New York and some others from other cities. I have heard much of the honey and wild game of this country, but have seen very little. To-day I had a wild turkey for dinner; honey was on the table; ducks this morning for breakfast. Some venison is promised for tea. A very fine doe is just now brought in (four o'clock p. m.) and is very fat. 'Tis said there are plenty of elk and some buffalo about fifty miles west of this. Three baboons were discovered about four hundred miles north-west of here the past summer. Affidavits of the fact are made by some army officers whose veracity is not doubted. It was while cutting a military road from Ft. Snelling to Ft. Calhoun.

BURLINGTON, IOWA T., OCT. 20, 1838.

The most favorable offer which I have had was made at Bloomington. It was that I should reside there, pay into a common fund an amount of about twelve hundred dollars, and receive an interest in the town lots equal to one-sixteenth of the whole. This would be about sixty in lots; a mill site (*i. e.* one-sixteenth), the best in the country; about ten acres of out-lots; and one-sixteenth of a stone quarry in town yielding stone similar in texture to the Portsmouth free-stone of which window-caps and sills are made in Dayton; the color, however, is nearly white, and it is of greater strength than the Portsmouth stone. Bloomington, aside from its prospect of being the seat of government for Iowa Territory, will be an important place for trade. There are now not a dozen houses in the place; there may be two dozen cabins; not a lawyer in the place, nor a preacher in the neighborhood. I asked a woman why they had no preaching. She said that chickens were scarce; that when the poultry yards became well supplied there would be no scarcity of preachers! The day is not far distant however, (perhaps five years), when Bloomington will equal Dayton in wealth and population. Its moral condition will depend much upon the influence of its first settlers. A good preacher, who could live here without levying contributions upon the people, would be the most powerful engine to make this town what it should be. I have seen Gov. Lucas. He is very popular here and will do nothing to destroy it.

STEAMBOAT ARIEL AGAIN, OFF BURLINGTON, IOWA T.,

OCT. 29, 1838.

I have a couple of bloody stories to tell which will illustrate in some degree the state of society here. A Mrs. Atwood, with an infant child, arrived at the Governor's quarters a day or two ago on her way from the interior of the Territory to her friends in Vermont. She represented to the Governor some facts (accompanied with proof) as follows: Some months ago one of the Sac Indians was killed by a white man named Ross, who immediately escaped. The friends of the deceased Indian sought revenge and determined to take blood of equal value. Atwood had been at work for the United States Government on Indian land, and while returning to his home was killed. His body was found some days afterward with the head tomahawked, one arm cut off, and his body partially eaten by wolves. Atwood was a Methodist preacher and has left a widow with one child in

very indigent circumstances. She sat at table this morning at breakfast in the Burlington house. Mrs. Lockwood, the hostess, passed around the table and collected forty-one dollars for the relief of the widow; the Ariel gives her a passage to Bloomington. The Governor was pleased to place her under my protection to that place. Governor Lucas will institute an investigation, and demand the Indian murderer of his tribe.

After delivering Mrs. Atwood on board the Ariel, I returned to the house for my baggage; walking up the street, I locked arms with Mr. Van Antwerp (receiver of the land office here). We heard the report of fire-arms, and at the same moment a ball passed apparently between our heads. He ran like an affrighted deer about ten rods, when he stopped, turned, and called to me to follow him, but I stood my ground to witness the battle. The first I saw was a man running toward me without a hat, with a broken head, and an empty pistol; his name was Rorer. He asked me for a loaded pistol; I hadn't the article about me. On inquiry it turned out that Rorer had made a speech to the people while a candidate for Congress, to which Jacobs, the District Attorney, took exception and demanded an apology. Rorer refused to give one, whereupon Jacobs caned Rorer in the street. Rorer, as he reeled under the blows, fired a pistol, and as soon as he could recover his feet, ran up the street in the direction I was walking; when Jacobs fired his pistol whose ball whispered me so closely. Jacobs received Rorer's ball through the body. He will probably die to-morrow. . . . All of this occurred in the most public part of the city of Burlington. The death of Atwood occurred about twelve miles west of Bloomington.

While waiting for your letter I am going to procure a topographical survey of the country between the Cedar River and the Mississippi River at Bloomington. I am of the opinion that the Cedar River may be brought across, shortening its distance to the Mississippi about forty miles, and creating a fall of more than a hundred feet by a cut of ten miles. I shall see. It is probable that twelve or fifteen thousand feet per minute may be brought across.

30th Oct.

Arrived at Bloomington; but little prospect of examination or survey—no instruments are to be found here. This town looks much better since I returned from Burlington than before I went down. I am much pleased with my purchase; the prospect is flattering for good society. If my only object was to make money fast I should go farther north.

BLOOMINGTON, 14 Nov., 1838.

Messrs. Lowe and Douglass arrived here about a week ago. They were both in good health and spirits, and have both made purchases here. In the purchases I have made I cannot get lots enough together, on a street that pleases me, for a building spot, and have been a week trying to make such exchanges and arrangements as will give me half a block (say a quarter of any acre) in one place on a principal street.

The Mississippi is filled with floating ice; neither steamboats or other boats can run with safety. The Iowa River is impassable for the same reason. I can not afford to risk much of my neck in making an attempt to leave here. The land sales commence (at Burlington) in less than a week, by which time I hope we can go down, and if the Ohio is navigable, two of us will go immediately home; the other one will stay until after the sales, which will be about the first week in December. Douglass has lent some of his money to the county at fifty per cent; he might have had a hundred by asking it. I could lend thousands of dollars at a hundred per cent if I had it at the land sales.

Money is often scarce on the frontier, but no doubt part

of this abnormal scarcity was caused by the lingering effects of the great panic of 1837. This feverish speculation in land and town lots, the hardships of travel by boat or stage, and all the details of the crude, wild, reckless frontier life, make a characteristic picture, but one which those of a later generation will find it hard to associate with the peaceful shores of the Mississippi.

## VI.

In the spring of 1839 Mr. Whicher embarked at Cincinnati with his family, a year's provisions, and a frame house ready for erection. On April 4th he arrived at the settlement of Bloomington, which since 1849 has been known by the name of Muscatine, apparently the Indian name of the remarkable prairie island which lies immediately below it.\* The settlement had been organized in the preceding February as a town of the second class, and had a population of seventy-one, chiefly men. But its greatness and prosperity were already assured—in the belief of its inhabitants. The American who has not at least once in his life “grown up with the country”—who has not fervently believed in the future growth of his own infant community and expected it to become the “seat of government,” to the speedy enrichment of himself and his fellow-townsmen—who has not fed fat on hope and then eaten the bitter bread of slow disillusion—has missed one of the most unique and typical phases of our national history.

Mr. Whicher had invested in town lots (there is still a Whicher's Addition on the maps of Muscatine), and on one of the bold bluffs overlooking the river, at the end of what became the main street of the town, he proceeded to erect the house he had brought from Ohio. Everything was complete, and timber, door and window frames were so numbered that any carpenter could put them together without difficulty.

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\*See essay by I. B. Richman in *John Brown Among the Quakers*, pp. 63-75.

"The framing-timbers were cut and hewn from the trees growing within the city limits. It was built with an old-fashioned hip-roof and the gable ends were finished with battlements. It was an old castle in every sense of the word. Mr. Whicher had this roof and the battlements removed in 1849, robbing it of its feudal appearance."\*

Old settlers long remembered the unique house-warming which was here celebrated. "In the spring of 1839 Stephen Whicher, Esq., made a large social party at his house at which were about twenty Indians† with their squaws—in calico breeches, round-about, and moccasins ornamented with beads and trinkets. The Indian men were dressed for the party also with faces painted and gay blankets, with war trophies on, jewels in their ears and noses, brass bands on their arms, long ornamented pipes, weasel and skunk-skin tobacco pouches, war-clubs with feathers attached to them, bears' claws and tusks, buck-skin breeches and waumises highly ornamented. All the elite of the town were present, ladies and gentlemen, young and middle-aged (we had no old folks then). George Lucas was there, Ralph P. Lowe, Esq., and his wife, Matthew Mathews and his daughter, H. Mathews and wife and two daughters, M. Couch and wife—a social and jolly company, indeed. The center of the large room was cleared and an Indian war-dance introduced. They lacked music, and Mrs. Whicher brought out some tin pans, and the fire-shovel and tongs with a few sticks made the music."‡ The wild howls of the warriors, joined to the rest of the noise, were too much for the nerves of the white women present, and a scene of confusion ensued. When the Indians at length subsided, they insisted that the whites, and especially the "white squaws," should dance in their fashion, and this brilliant occasion, as the narrator calls it, closed to the familiar strains of a back-woods violin.

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\*J. P. Walton's Reminiscences.

†Probably on their way north to Rock Island for their annuities.

‡Suel Foster, quoted by J. P. Walton.





HOUSE BUILT BY STEPHEN WHICHER AT MUSCATINE, IOWA, 1889.



The Whicher homestead was later the scene of many less unconventional festivities. "In this picturesque home Mr. and Mrs. Whicher dispensed a hospitality known in that earlier period the whole length of the valley and in all the West for the wit and cheer of its board and fireside. The host was a gentleman of the old school and his genial hearth was witness to the most interesting society and assemblies of this new country."\* Here at different times were entertained General A. C. Dodge of Burlington, General George W. Jones of Dubuque, Henry W. Starr of Burlington, Thomas H. Benton, Jr., General J. C. Breckenridge of Burlington and later of Kentucky, Professor David Dale Owen from Scotland, Judge Geo. G. Greene of Cedar Rapids, and General R. C. Schenck of Ohio, the last an intimate friend of the host. There was, of course, a wide circle of friends in the vicinity who were no less hospitably welcomed. Mr. Whicher was a man of some reserve of manner; he was grave and dignified in deportment and preferred that his associates should in general show themselves animated by the same high ideals of conduct which he imposed upon himself. These traits, joined to his power of sarcastic speech, sometimes produced the impression that he was a man who cared little for social intercourse and still less for forming friendships. But this was a mistake, as those knew who once became intimate with him. He was fond of company—of *good* company, at least—and on fit occasion could be merry with the merriest. His power of telling a story was very great, and when in the proper mood he could entertain a company "quite cleverly," as one of his hearers phrased it. A frontier settlement is given to hospitality, and no one in Bloomington was more eager to discharge its duties and enjoy its privileges than the owner of what happened to be the largest house in the town. With very little alteration this house is still standing (1900) and occupied as a residence;

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\*George Van Horne in Muscatine paper, 1880.

it is supposed that few, if any, homes in Iowa can rival it in antiquity, as antiquity must be counted in the West. Here for the next seventeen years—the last of his life—Mr. Whicher made his home, and at this house, with its ample garden and old-fashioned orchard, occupied and amused the scanty leisure which his engrossing professional work and his frequent journeys left him.

Socially, Muscatine amply fulfilled the hopes of the first settlers of Bloomington; but the promised prosperity was slow in coming. Iowa City became the capital of the new Territory and the seat of the territorial courts. Davenport on the north and Burlington on the south thrived more rapidly on the commerce of the river; and when at last the railroads from the east turned the main trade channels at right angles to their old course, Muscatine failed to secure a place on the direct highway of traffic, and lagged behind still more conspicuously. It was many years before the value of land rose above the price paid by the first settlers, who had borrowed money at fifty and one hundred per cent. to develop the wilderness.

## VII.

In November, 1838, the first session of the Supreme Court of Iowa was held at Burlington with Chief Justice Charles Mason of Burlington presiding, and Joseph Williams of Bloomington, and Thomas S. Wilson of Dubuque associate judges.\* Twenty attorneys were admitted to practice at that term, and among them was Mr. Whicher, then on his way back to Ohio after his tour of inspection. From this time forward to the day of his death he was one of the most conspicuous members of the bar, and enjoyed a constantly growing practice in the United States District Courts, as well as in the Supreme and District Courts of the Territory (or State). It would be rash for a layman to attempt to determine the rank of a member of the bar; but it seems

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\**The Early Bar of Iowa* by Theodore S. Parvin, LL. D.



clear from the testimony of his fellow lawyers that Mr. Whicher's wide experience in his profession, joined to his native ability and learning, secured for him at the outset a position of no little eminence. Mr. Henry O'Conner, long a resident of Muscatine and afterwards Attorney General of Iowa, writes of him as follows: "There were beside him at that bar S. C. Hastings, J. Scott Richman, Wm. G. Woodward, Jacob Butler; and here also lived Joseph Williams, among the first and one of the best Supreme Judges that Iowa has ever had. Of this group Whicher was confessedly the finest and profoundest lawyer; indeed, except in a few notable cases, the equal of any and the master of most of the Iowa lawyers."

"Stephen Whicher, Lawyer," was the reading on his sign board, and his devotion to his profession and his care in the preparation of his cases were not infrequently commented upon by his associates. "He was one who practiced law all his life and engaged in no other profession." "Law was his bread and butter and to that profession he gave the whole of his energies." "He conducted a law-suit, in those days of free and easy and perhaps loose practice, with more care than any lawyer I then knew." And it would be easy to adduce other testimony of the same kind. Mr. J. Scott Richman, one of the earliest settlers at Bloomington, writes still more in detail of Mr. Whicher's characteristics as a lawyer:

He had few books and seldom consulted them. He was a fine elementary lawyer, being well grounded in the principles of the law, and made his application of it to new cases by a system of analogy, concluding what the law must be in a new case from what it was known to be in established cases. And he was generally right. His addresses before a jury could not be called eloquent, but they were always interesting, and it was often remarked that he made a better speech when he had a bad case than when he had a good one. He had great faith in himself, and was generally regarded as a sound and successful lawyer in any cause in which he became interested.

A lawyer's life, whatever it may be now, was not altogether a life of ease in pioneer days. Letters of the time abound in references to the hardships and the weariness of

travel by stage or sleigh, and the absences from home to attend the sittings of various courts were frequent and long continued. In November, 1852, Mr. Whicher writes: "This is the first time I have been seen about the house much since the beginning of November, 1848;" and he proceeds to state with much humor the ills which resulted from his continual absences. The slow journeying by land and the monotonous rides up or down the river; the enforced stay at hotels in county seats or state capital; the free and easy life of small and new communities, all gave ample opportunities for men to take each other's measure, and to develop a cordial admiration, or the reverse, for various qualities of heart or mind. Among those whom Mr. Whicher met thus in the intimacies of pioneer life was S. C. Hastings, who afterwards became Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Iowa and later Chief Justice of California. They "rode the circuit" together and became warm friends, though usually pitted against each other in the course of business. Many years afterwards Judge Hastings spoke in the highest terms of admiration of his old friend Stephen Whicher, saying in substance, that "he was a talented and eminent lawyer, the peer of any in Iowa. He was remarkable as a special pleader and was an acknowledged leader at the bar; a man of rugged honesty and integrity; upright and steadfast in his devotion to duty. Being a man of strong determination and character, he had his emotional nature under complete control, though naturally nervous and sensitive. He had been a deep and thorough student and possessed mental faculties of a high order. His knowledge of law was wide in its scope, and his opinions were always quoted with confidence."

Busy as he was with his own profession Mr. Whicher was always ready to serve the community in any way within his power. In the first year of his residence in the Territory (1839) he found an opportunity of service in connection with the so-called Missouri War. An unfortunate dispute regarding jurisdiction over some lands near the

mouth of the Des Moines River threatened to bring the authorities of the State of Missouri and the territorial government of Iowa into armed conflict. Early in October of that year Governor Lucas of Iowa had written to the secretary of state at Washington that it seemed impossible to avoid being drawn into a controversy. But shortly afterwards the affair assumed a still more threatening aspect. At the request of the governor, apparently, Mr. Whicher went to the scene of the difficulty, investigated the condition of affairs, and reported that troops had been mustered in by the State of Missouri and were on their way north to the disputed district. On the basis of this report a new communication was dispatched to Washington by Governor Lucas, asking for instructions at once.\* Through the further efforts of Mr. Whicher and others whose advice was for peace, this threatened bloodshed was averted. It was agreed to leave the dispute to the arbitration of the national government, and, after some years of delay, the Supreme Court rendered a decision confirming the right of Iowa to the territory in question. A question which has long engaged the attention of the citizens of Iowa and for which no satisfactory solution has yet been found, is the question of regulating the sale of liquor. Many years after Mr. Whicher's death a grandson went as a student to the college town of Grinnell. He well remembers the warm welcome given him by the genial citizen for whom the town was named, Hon. J. B. Grinnell, "because your grandfather framed the first temperance statute for the State of Iowa." As Mr. Whicher never was a member of the legislature, his help was probably sought in this case because of his well known interest in the cause of temperance reform, a movement which seemed to him one of the most important and far-reaching which had been discussed in his lifetime. There is still preserved an address which he delivered at the anniversary of a temperance socie-

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\*ANNALS OF IOWA, July, 1870, page 283.

ty in which he clearly shows how greatly he had been impressed by the recent revival of interest in this subject, a revival which, as he remarks, had "repealed the laws of social intercourse, obliterated the accustomed marks of hospitality, and changed and conquered the daily habits of mankind." A chance reference in one of his letters shows plainly how great the change had been since the days of his own youth. "Mr. Robbins," he wrote in January, 1853, "was installed as the stated pastor of the Congregational church here a few evenings ago. The night was beautiful, and the whole ceremony went off in good New England style, only no ball was had by the young people on the occasion, and the ministers had no phlip—a favorite New England winter drink made of beer, sugar, rum, and hot iron!" The cause of temperance had, indeed, made great progress, but much remained to be done, and to this, as to all other efforts to improve the moral and intellectual condition of the State, Mr. Whicher gave a generous and hearty support.

Mr. Whicher's success in his profession and the recognition of his worth by his fellow-citizens were quite sufficient to gratify a reasonable ambition. For political honor, which is so generally considered the fit reward of success at the bar, or at least its natural accompaniment, he did not greatly care. As far as known he never was a candidate for an elective office but once. He ran on the Whig ticket for senator for the district composed of the counties of Muscatine and Johnson. "I was a Democrat in all those years," wrote Mr. Parvin, "and therefore politically opposed to him. I remember having stumped Muscatine county against him. While a very able lawyer and a sound reasoner he had no trait of character in common with the mass of people. He was in no sense one of them; while not an aristocrat, he had yet high notions of the dignity of man and could not bring himself down to the level of the mass of voters. I was therefore able to take him at a disadvantage, and the Democratic candidate was successful."



In politics, as has been said, Mr. Whicher was a confirmed Whig, and between 1840 and 1850 the adherents of that party in Iowa had little taste of success in state elections, nor could they expect to be consoled for local weakness by federal patronage. "The whole patronage of a territorial government is in the hands of the President of the United States," Mr. Whicher wrote on first coming to Iowa. The Jacksonian doctrine of spoils had been too recently promulgated and too thoroughly applied to leave any doubt as to what might be expected as a reward for any degree of fitness for office not accompanied by political orthodoxy. But in the presidential elections of 1848 the Whigs were successful, and in 1850 on the death of Zachary Taylor the presidency passed to Millard Fillmore, who was not only a Whig, but a Whig from the North. About a month after his inauguration Mr. Whicher was appointed United States District Attorney for the State of Iowa, and held the position until the end of that administration. He discharged the duties of this important office in a manner and with a success which won unqualified approval from the best critics, the members of his own profession. It is hoped that some more detailed account of his official work may yet be compiled, either from the court records or from the memory of the few of his contemporaries now living. It is sufficient to say here that they were busy and, on the whole, happy years, although he had already begun to feel that the strain of his professional life was too great for his strength. "My health," he wrote, "is giving way too rapidly for me longer to remain indifferent to the duty of its protection, and I shall not permit the government wantonly to make drafts upon it." During his term of office he was asked to deliver a course of lectures before the students of a law school in Dubuque. His interest in his profession led him to accept the invitation, despite the added burden of preparation, and in January, 1853, he read six lectures on the History of the Common Law, a subject which his great interest in historical questions had rendered

thoroughly congenial to him. "The class paid me the compliment of requesting my portrait. I sat to an artist who assisted Healy in his pictures of eighteen distinguished American statesmen for the King of France. Considering this was at Dubuque where perhaps more than half of the people (!) never had a thought of going to look at Whicher after death, I esteem the compliment higher than if tendered from any other quarter."

The few remaining years of Mr. Whicher's life fell in the stormy political period of the anti-slavery discussion, marked by the Fugitive Slave Law and the Kansas-Nebraska Bill. It was evident that there must be a re-arrangement of political forces, and though it grieved an ardent Whig to see his party disrupted, Mr. Whicher was ready for the new duties which the new occasion brought. Early in 1856 he was at Iowa City on legal business, and there signed the call for the meeting at which the Republican party of the State of Iowa was formed. The paper had been brought to him for his signature while he lay on a sick bed, and before the meeting was held he had passed away. His constitution, long undermined by hard work, had suddenly and unexpectedly succumbed to an attack of cholera. His death occurred February 13, 1856. His remains were conveyed for interment to the city with whose foundation and early history he had been so closely identified. The members of the Muscatine bar assembled at the tidings of his death and unanimously expressed their sorrow at the "great loss to the community in which he had lived and acted since its organization; by the death of Stephen Whicher the legal profession has lost one of its oldest, most learned, and most gifted members, whose professional acts from the time of the first establishment of judicial procedure in Iowa to that of his death, had resulted in honor to himself and benefit to the profession and to the public." To be born in poverty, to acquire an education by self-denial, to rise in one's chosen profession by hard labor, to win the love and respect of one's fellow-citizens, to

have some part in serving the State, to leave an honorable name to one's children: these are not the elements of which one may construct a romance. But such, happily, has been the outline of a typical American career. It is such lives which "constitute the State," and form the broad and stable basis on which our commonwealth has been built.

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### HONOR TO THE BRAVE.

We were permitted, by the politeness of our fellow-citizen, Charles Nealley, to examine, at his store, the magnificent sword, manufactured in pursuance of a resolution of the last legislature of Iowa, to be presented to Capt. B. S. Roberts of this State, for gallant service in the Mexican war. It is a beautiful weapon, finished in Ames' best style, with a polished steel scabbard, gold mounted, with gold and silver hilt and guard. On the scabbard, engraved on a gold plate, is the following extract from Gen. Scott's official report:

"Capt. Roberts, of the mounted rifle regiment, who had greatly distinguished himself the preceding day in leading the advance company of the storming party at Chapultepec, was selected by me, *to plant the national flag on the capitol.*"

On the end of the hilt are the words, "State of Iowa, to Capt. Roberts;" and on the guard, in a crest, the words: "Presented by the State of Iowa to Capt. B. S. Roberts for meritorious and gallant services in Mexico."

On the right of the blade is the inscription:

"Contreras, Churubusco, Chapultepec, Streets of Mexico, Tlascalla."

And on the reverse:

"Vera Cruz, Puerta del Media, Cerro Gordo, San Juan de los Llanos."

Capt. R. is now in California—when he returns, the State of his adoption will present to him this fitting testimonial of his brave and patriotic services in his country's cause.—*Iowa Democratic Enquirer, Muscatine, May 23, 1850.*

## REMINISCENCES.

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### ANOTHER CHAPTER BY IRA COOK.

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Sixty-four years ago this day I came to Iowa, landing where now stands the city of Davenport, and although nearly two-thirds of a century have passed since that day, and I am fast nearing my four score years; I cannot forget the impression then produced on my mind, boy as I was, that it was the most beautiful land on God's green earth, and the richness of the soil, the wondrous profusion and fragrance of the wild flowers, the green hills, and pleasant valleys, still remain with me after all these long years.

A journey in those days from our home in western New York to the new land, was a very different affair from that of the same trip to-day. My father, one sister and her husband came out in October, 1835. They came to Buffalo by the Erie canal, thence to Cleveland by steamboat, down the Portsmouth Canal to the Ohio River, then down the Ohio and up the Mississippi Rivers by steamboat to Rock Island. The trip consumed just one month.

In the spring of 1836 the remainder of the family, consisting of twelve people, including the children of my brothers and sisters, left home on the 25th day of March. Our route was one-hundred miles by wagon to "Olean Point," on the Alleghany River. There we built cabins on a lumber raft and floated down to Pittsburgh, from there to Cincinnati by steamboat, thence by way of Ohio and Mississippi river boats to Rock Island. We were two months, less two days, making the trip.

In those days three to four weeks were required to bring from, or send a letter to New York, and the postage was twenty-five cents for a half ounce. Then Iowa was attached to Michigan for judicial purposes, and my father held a commission from the Governor of Michigan as a justice of the peace. Only what was called the "Black Hawk Purchase"



then belonged to the government, and the settlements were mostly confined to a narrow strip along the Mississippi River; all of the rest of this great State, now the home of 2,000,000 people, belonged to the Indian tribes.

During the years 1836 and 1837 the influx of people into the new territory was great and the country was full of "land hunters." My father had a hewed log house with a *shingle roof*, which in those early days was considered "quite swell;" and although there were fourteen all told in the family, still in a way that cabin was a hotel, for there was scarcely a night that some one did not apply for something to eat and a place to sleep, and my father was a man with so kind a heart that no man was ever turned away hungry or tired, so long as there was any thing to eat in the house, or a place to stow away another body, and that would generally be on the soft side of a hard wood (oak) "puncheon." The Indians called him Nish-i-shin Che-mo-ka-man (good white man). I should say here that, in addition to the log cabin described, which was 16 x 18, it had a loft reached by a ladder, where people could be stowed away, and another very small cabin made of rough logs and roofed with "shakes," which, by the way, make a very good "fair weather roof," excellent so far as ventilation is concerned.

As I have before said, we arrived on the 23d of May, 1836. My father and William Van Tuyl, my brother-in-law, had prepared and had ready for planting about twenty acres, broken up the previous year, and on the 24th all hands turned in to planting this ground to corn. We had then none of the modern farm implements and so that crop was planted in the old-fashioned way. The ground was furrowed with a horse, the corn dropped by hand and covered with a hoe. We had a very good crop, and I believe it was the first crop of corn raised in the vicinity of Davenport. I know we had no neighbors within several miles who raised any corn that year.

In connection with this crop of corn, I must tell of a boy-

ish prank of mine. Our field was only about one-half fenced, and as soon as the corn was planted all hands went to the timber making rails to complete the fencing. One evening on returning from the timber we found that a drove of hogs belonging to a neighbor, a man by the name of Faulkner, had been in the field and had made sad havoc with the newly planted corn, so the next day I was left at home to guard the field and replant the corn. Well, if that drove of hogs did not make it lively for me that hot summer day, then I lose my guess! I was a small boy for my age, with very short legs; that drove of hogs was very large, with very long legs (the "razor-back breed"), and they could go around the field and get in their work sooner than I could go across and head them off. The day came to an end, and it came near making an end of me, too. That night I told my brother, John P., of the awful time I had and then he said: "See here, Bub, I tell you what to do. After we go out in the morning you take 'Old Betsey' ('Old Betsey' was a single-barrel shot gun about six feet long), fill your pocket with peas (we had a barrel, brought out for seed) and I think you can keep them off." This looked like a large-sized picnic for me and I acted upon his advice promptly. I did not have to wait long for the enemy, and I was ready for them. As soon as they were in range "Old Betsey" spoke in her loudest voice. That shot took effect, because the individual hog which received the charge "squealed," but it had no more effect on that drove than if I had thrown a stone among them. I kept up that "cannonade" for a half hour. The confounded drove would retreat, but immediately make a charge on another part of the field. At last hot, mad, tired out, the devil thought it a good time to make his appearance, and I have noticed that when "Auld Cloutie" has work for his subjects to do, he takes particular care to provide the means. I happened just then to put my hand in my pocket and there I found a dozen or more buckshot that a man had given me. Without any hesitation I rolled six or eight of them down

"Betsey's" throat, and as the enemy was then just within fair range, I blazed away. The result—yes, sir, all that his satanic majesty could desire! Two of the largest fell to rise no more; others, how many I do not know, went limping and squealing home. One, I know, only succeeded in going a few rods to an Indian trail, where it lay down and became "pork," making a total "bag" of *three*! The enemy were effectually routed and I saw no more of them that day.

The Indians were plenty with us. They were not reconciled to give up their hunting and fishing ground on Rock Island and vicinity. Black Hawk says in his life, dictated by himself: "This was our garden spot, our fruit orchard, and was very dear to us." And so they lingered in the vicinity and made frequent visits to their loved and lost old homes. They were, as a rule, peaceable and well behaved, glad to exchange game and fish for the products of the white man's fields. Occasionally, when under the influence of whiskey, they became troublesome. One such incident happened to my sister, Mrs. Van Tuyl. She was alone in the house when two Indians came in. They had a bottle of whiskey and were already under its influence. It was a cold day, and after warming themselves they made signs that they wanted a drinking cup. My sister gave them a tea cup, which they managed to drop on the floor and, of course, it went to pieces. Then they asked for another, but she said "no," and shook her head. At once one of them drew a knife and threatened her. She stepped to a corner of the room, seized a broom, pointed to the door and said "pucko-chee!" (go), and sure enough they went, and in a hurry, too. It seems to be a fact that a "brave" fears nothing so much on earth as to be struck by a woman. He is disgraced forever.

Those pioneer days were days of toil, interspersed with frequent attacks of ague, and, as I have somewhere said before, "when we were not at work we were shaking." I well remember that in the fall of 1836, 1837 and 1838, and espe-

cially in 1837, there were not enough well people in all the country to care for the sick.

Where the flourishing city of Davenport now stands there was not a single house, on what was the original town site, only a cabin on the bank of the river, in which lived the ferryman. Further up the river and about opposite the Rock Island bridge lived Mr. Antoine Le Claire, and that was the sum total of the inhabitants in May, 1836. During that year and the succeeding ones the influx of settlers was great and we soon had plenty of neighbors. The town of Davenport began to grow and was soon a thriving village, with churches, schools, stores and mechanical trades in full operation.

The country around Rock Island in those days was a paradise for sportsmen. Game was plenty and the river fairly swarmed with fish. To those who had the leisure to take advantage of this condition of affairs, there was lots of sport every day in the week; but to those of us who were compelled by necessity to labor from dawn to dark, and then do the "chores," the fun was not so apparent. However, even we, the unfortunates, occasionally got a "half day off," and on days when it rained so hard and steadily that we could not work, even in the barn, we were allowed to "go a fishin'."

Of public men and public measures in those early days I can say but little. I was but a boy of 15 or 16 years, and that boy was confined closely on a farm and worked from fourteen to sixteen hours each day. I remember one morning seeing Gov. Henry Dodge of Wisconsin pass our farm on his way to Burlington to attend the annual session of the legislature. He was on horseback and attended by other state officers. They had ridden the entire distance from the then capital of Wisconsin, which I believe was at Mineral Point, and still had a ride of one hundred and twenty miles before them.

I once met and was introduced to Gen. Robert Lucas, our first territorial governor. I believe this occurred in the



spring of 1841. I was then living in Tipton, Cedar county. Some of "us boys" one day borrowed an old horse and wagon and started over to Rock Creek for the purpose of fishing. As we were driving through the timber we saw coming toward us two men on horseback. We soon recognized one as Mr. Harmon Van Antwerp, the then member of the territorial legislature from Cedar county. When we met we stopped and Mr. Van Antwerp introduced his companion as "Gov. Lucas." After a little chat and a kindly inquiry by the governor as to where we boys were bound, we said "Good morning" and went on our way. I mention this interview to give me an opportunity to tell how one, at least, of our early governors was dressed. First, he had on a complete suit of blue linsey woolsey, evidently of home manufacture, and the cut and fit showed the handiwork of an amateur. His shirt was of unbleached cotton cloth, with turn down collar, and shirt front of the same material; a pair of coarse cowhide boots and a soft wool hat completed his attire. A sturdy figure of a pioneer was he, but under that soft felt hat was a brain large enough for a ruler of nations, and we of this day (as those of that day could not) can see how much that plain old man contributed to the solid foundations of this great commonwealth.

A notable person in those very early days was Antoine Le Claire. He lived in a very comfortable house, about opposite the lower end of Rock Island, on a section (640 acres) reserved for him by the Indians when they made their first sale to the United States of their Iowa lands.

Mr. Le Claire was of French and Indian blood. He was well educated and exercised a powerful influence over the Indians. He was for very many years in the employ of the United States as an interpreter. He officiated in that capacity in making the treaty at the time (September 21, 1832) the government made the first purchase of the Indians, called locally the "Black Hawk Purchase." And again in 1836 when General Scott made a treaty with the Sacs and

Foxes, at which time a further large purchase of land was made. That treaty was made on the reservation belonging to Mr. Le Claire and was attended by the entire tribe, many thousands in numbers. I remember distinctly the hundreds and hundreds of Indians, squaws, papposes, ponies and dogs, that for days prior to that of the treaty swarmed past our cabin. The main trail from the Indian villages on the Iowa river to the agency on Rock Island passed within twenty or thirty rods of our cabin and right across our land. So, as I was confined at home with the "shakes" (ague) and could not go to the treaty grounds some two or three miles away, I used to sit day after day and watch the moving procession.

Mr. Le Claire was a man of immense proportions, weighing from 350 to 400 pounds, yet he could mount a horse or dance a cotillion with more ease and grace than many a man of half his weight.

He was a good citizen, liberal, public-spirited, benevolent, and always ready to help the deserving. The city of Davenport owes much to him. He accumulated large wealth for those days, and made good use of it. He died September 21, 1861.

Col. George Davenport was another man who figured in the local affairs of Iowa and Davenport, although his residence was on Rock Island, where he had lived since 1816 or 1817, coming there, I believe, with the soldiers who built Fort Armstrong. He had been for many years, and was still as late as 1836, an Indian trader. He was one of the original proprietors of the town of Davenport, and it bears his name. For years he had been again and again placed in deadly peril in his dealings with hostile tribes, yet he lived to meet death at the hands of cowardly robbers, who first shot him, and then so abused and maltreated him to force him to tell where his money was that he died that night.

The pursuit and capture of his murderers was one of the most thrilling chapters of western history. My brother,

Ebenezer, was of the counsel for the prosecution, and his story of the pursuit and capture of Birch, Fox, the two Longs and Young, was most interesting. Birch and Fox escaped in some mysterious way, but John and Aaron Long and Young were tried and condemned, and I had the satisfaction, together with some thousands of other spectators, of seeing them hung! Maybe that sounds rather sanguinary, but the whole country was aroused by the brutal murder of an unoffending peaceable old gentleman, who was known to every citizen, old and young, in the country, and there were not many but who would have been glad to pull upon a rope to one end of which dangled the murderers.

There were many other men who came to Davenport and Scott county in 1836 and 1837 and later who deserve and are entitled to honorable mention and praise for their efforts in building up the new country, but space forbids the record of their names here.

On the 22d day of February, 1858, (Washington's birthday) the Pioneer Settlers' Association of Scott County held their first re-union at the Burtis House. J. A. Birchard, Esq., of Pleasant Valley, in responding to the toast, "The History of Scott County," closed as follows: "We have made the new homes; raised the new altars; built the new school houses and churches. To do this required men; men of iron nerve, of strong arms and large hearts, and such men were the pioneers of Scott county, and I may justly add, and so of all Iowa."

My sister, Mrs. William Van Tuyl, of Davenport, is to-day the oldest living settler of Davenport, and, I believe, with the exception of Capt. Lewis Clark, of Buffalo, of Scott county.

But there were others who aided in laying the foundations of Iowa strong and deep and who contributed largely to the final result. The pioneers of Iowa were a strong and sturdy set of men and of the very best blood of this nation. It took a man of more than ordinary courage and determina-

tion, sixty and more years ago, to decide to pack up his worldly possessions and leave the comforts of the east and come to what was then the very far west; and so it was, that those that did come were of the best, and the best equipped for the work before them.

Last winter, at the biennial meeting of the "Pioneer Law Makers" in the city of Des Moines, on the occasion of the reception of that body by the legislature, then in session, the Hon. S. P. Yeomans, of Lucas county, one of the pioneer legislators, in reply to an address made by the presiding officer of one branch of the legislature, tells the story of the work of the pioneers far better than I can. He said:

I could not keep you on the mountain top if I would. I ask you to step down to the level plain of facts. The profound compliments we receive may turn our heads. Our work was not so marvelous after all. The truth is that the Lord Almighty made Iowa. When we came here we found in Iowa a veritable cornucopia of wealth. We found it in soil, climate, sky and woods. Our civilization was crude. The men who laid the foundations of the state were not pioneer law makers, but for the most part pioneer farmers. They planted trees, they tilled the land, they raised the crops. Prosperity came apace. The iron horse came to carry away to the east the products of the farm. It is true that laws had to be established. A judiciary system was devised, schools were organized and were made free to all. If we did our work well, we have received our reward.

DES MOINES, IOWA, May 23, 1900.

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GO TO THE WEST.—We say, as we have ever said, to young men or young women of light purse, but willing hand; to the farmer or mechanic of increasing family, slender means or dubious prospects, your true home is in the West! Seek it, rear your children there to larger opportunities than await them on the rugged hill-side or in the crowded streets of the East.—*Horace Greeley, Oct. 15, 1857.*



## A CELEBRATED INDIAN TREATY.

### THE "BLACKHAWK\* PURCHASE."

[CONCLUDED SEPTEMBER 21, 1832—RATIFIED FEBRUARY 13, 1833.]

*Articles of a treaty of peace, friendship, and cession, concluded at Fort Armstrong, Rock Island, Illinois, between the United States of America, by their commissioners, Major General Winfield Scott, of the United States Army, and His Excellency John Reynolds, governor of the State of Illinois, and the confederated tribes of Sac and Fox Indians, represented in general council, by the undersigned chiefs, head men, and warriors.*

Whereas, under certain lawless and desperate leaders, a formidable band, constituting a large portion of the Sac and Fox nation, left their country in April last, and, in violation of treaties, commenced an unprovoked war upon unsuspecting and defenceless citizens of the United States, sparing neither age nor sex; and whereas, the United States, at a great expense of treasure, have subdued the said hostile band, killing or capturing all its principal chiefs and warriors; the said States, partly as indemnity for the expenses incurred, and partly to secure the future safety and tranquillity of the invaded frontier, demand of the said tribes, to the use of the United States, a cession of a tract of the Sac and Fox country, bordering on said frontier, more than proportional to the numbers of the hostile band who have been so conquered and subdued.

ART. 1. Accordingly, the confederated tribes of Sacs and Foxes hereby cede to the United States forever, all the lands to which the said tribes have title or claim, (with the exception of the reservation hereinafter made), included within the following bounds, to-wit: "Beginning on the Mississippi river, at the point where the Sac and Fox northern boundary line, as established by the second article of the treaty of Prairie du Chien, of the fifteenth of July, one thousand eight hundred and thirty, strikes said river; thence, up said boundary line to a point fifty miles from the Mississippi, measured on said line; thence, in a right line to the nearest point on the Red Cedar of the Ioway, forty miles from the Mississippi river; thence, in a right line to a point in the northern boundary line of the State of Missouri, fifty miles, measured on said boundary, from the Mississippi river; thence, by the last mentioned boundary to the Mississippi river, and by the western shore of said river to the place of beginning. And the said confederated tribes of Sacs and Foxes hereby stipulate and agree to remove from the lands herein ceded to the United States, on or before the first day of June next; and, in order to prevent any future misunderstanding, it is expressly understood, that no band or party of the Sac or Fox tribe shall reside, plant, fish, or hunt, on any portion of the ceded country after the period just mentioned.

ART. 2. Out of the cession made in the preceding article, the United States agree to a reservation for the use of the said confederated tribes, of a tract of land containing four hundred square miles, to be laid off under the direction of the President of the United States, from the boundary line crossing the Ioway river, in such manner that nearly an equal portion of the reservation may be on both sides of said river, and extending downwards, so as to include Ke-o-kuck's principal village on its right bank, which village is about twelve miles from the Mississippi river.

\*It was because of the great prominence of Blackhawk at that time in the popular mind that the "cession," made "partly as an indemnity for the expense incurred" by that war, was given by the people the name of "the Blackhawk Purchase." It was never a legal name—only a popular one.

ART. 3. In consideration of the great extent of the foregoing cession, he United States stipulate and agree to pay to the said confederated tribes, annually, for thirty successive years, the first payment to be made in September of the next year, the sum of twenty thousand dollars in specie.

ART. 4. It is further agreed that the United States shall establish and maintain within the limits, and for the use and benefit of the Sacs and Foxes, for the period of thirty years, one additional black and gunsmith shop, with the necessary tools, iron, and steel; and finally make a yearly allowance for the same period, to the said tribes, of forty kegs of tobacco, and forty barrels of salt, to be delivered at the mouth of the Ioway river.

ART. 5. The United States, at the earnest request of the said confederated tribes, further agree to pay to Farnham and Davenport, Indian traders at Rock Island, the sum of forty thousand dollars without interest, which sum will be in full satisfaction of the claims of the said traders against the said tribes; and by the latter, was, on the tenth day of July, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-one, acknowledged to be justly due, for articles of necessity, furnished in the course of the seven preceding years, in an instrument of writing of said date, duly signed by the chiefs and head men of said tribes, and certified by the late Felix St. Vrain, United States agent, and Antoine Le Claire, United States interpreter, both for the said tribes.

ART. 6. At the special request of the said confederated tribes, the United States agree to grant by patent, in fee simple, to Antoine Le Claire, interpreter, a part Indian, one section of land opposite Rock Island, and one section at the head of the first rapids above said island, within the country herein ceded by the Sacs and Foxes.

ART. 7. Trusting to the good faith of the neutral bands of Sacs and Foxes, the United States have already delivered up to those bands the great mass of prisoners made in the course of the war by the United States, and promise to use their influence to procure the delivery of other Sacs and Foxes, who may still be prisoners in the hands of a band of Sioux Indians, the friends of the United States; but the following named prisoners of war, now in confinement, who were chiefs and head men, shall be held as hostages for the future good conduct of the late hostile bands, during the pleasure of the President of the United States, viz: Muk-ka-ta-mish-a-ka-kaik (or Black Hawk) and his two sons; Wau-ba-kee-shik (the Prophet) his brother and two sons; Napope, We-sheet Ioway, Pamaho, and Cha-kee-pa-shi-pa-ho (the little stabbing chief).

ART. 8. And it is further stipulated and agreed between the parties to this treaty, that there shall never be allowed in the confederated Sac and Fox nation, any separate band or village, under any chief or warrior of the late hostile bands; but that the remnant of the said hostile bands shall be divided among the neutral bands of the said tribes according to blood—the Sacs among the Sacs, and the Foxes among the Foxes.

ART. 9. In consideration of the premises, peace and friendship are declared, and shall be perpetually maintained between the United States and the whole confederated Sac and Fox nation, excepting from the latter the hostages before mentioned.

ART. 10. The United States, besides the presents, delivered at the signing of his treaty, wishing to give a striking evidence of their mercy and liberality, will immediately cause to be issued to the said confederated tribes, principally for the use of the Sac and Fox women and children, whose husbands, fathers, and brothers, have been killed in the late war, and generally for the use of the whole confederated tribes, articles of subsistence, as follows: thirty-five beef cattle; twelve bushels of salt; thirty barrels of pork, and fifty barrels of flour; and cause to be delivered for the same purposes, in the month of April next, at the mouth of the lower Ioway, six thousand bushels of maize or Indian corn.

ART. 11. At the request of the said confederated tribes, it is agreed that a suitable present shall be made to them on their pointing out to any United States agent, authorized for the purpose, the position or positions of one or more mines, supposed by the said tribes to be of a metal more valuable than lead or iron.

ART. 12. This treaty shall take effect and be obligatory on the contracting parties, as soon as the same shall be ratified by the President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate thereof.

Done at Fort Armstrong, Rock Island, Illinois, this twenty-first day of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-two, and of the independence of the United States the fifty-seventh.

WINFIELD SCOTT.

JOHN REYNOLDS.

#### SACS.

Kee-o-kuck, or he who has been every where, his x mark.

Pa-she-pa-ho, or the stabber, his x mark.

Pia-tshe-noay, or the noise maker, his x mark.

Waw-kum-mee, or clear water, his x mark.

O-sow-wish-kan-no, or yellow bird, his x mark.

Pa-ca-tokee, or wounded lip, his x mark.

Winne-wun-quai-saat, or the terror of man, his x mark.

Mau-noa-tuck, or he who controls many, his x mark.

Wau-we-au-tun, or the curling wave, his x mark.

#### FOXES.

Wau-pel-la, or he who is painted white, his x mark.

Tay-wee-man, or medicine man, (strawberry,) his x mark.

Pow-sheek, or the roused bear, his x mark.

An-nau-mee, or the running fox, his x mark.

Ma-tow-e-quu, or the jealous woman, his x mark.

Me-shee-wau-quu, or the dried tree, his x mark.

May-kee-sa-mau-ker, or the wampum fish, his x mark.

Chaw-co-saut, or the prowler, his x mark.

Kaw-kaw-kee, or the crow, his x mark.

Mau-que-tee, or the bald eagle, his x mark.

Ma-she-na, or cross man, his x mark.

Kaw-kaw-ke-monte, or the pouch, (running bear,) his x mark.

Wee-she-kaw-k-a-skuck, or he who steps firmly, his x mark.

Wee-ca-ma, or good fish, his x mark.

Paw-quu-nuey, or the runner, his x mark.

Ma-hua-wai-be, or the wolf skin, his x mark.

Mis-see-quaw-kaw, or hairy neck, his x mark.

Waw-pee-shaw-kaw, or white skin, his x mark.

Mash-shen-waw-pee-tch, or broken tooth, his x mark.

Nau-nah-que-kee-shee-ko, or between two days, his x mark.

Paw-puck-ka-kaw, or stealing fox, his x mark.

Tay-e-sheek, or the falling bear, his x mark.

Wau-pee-maw-ker, or the white loon, his x mark.

Wau-co-see-nee-me, or fox man, his x mark.

## FORT DODGE, IOWA.\*

Latitude 42° 38'; Longitude 17° 01' W. Wash. A United States fort, situated on the Des Moines River near the junction of the Lizzard Fork, in what is now Webster county, Iowa, the site of the present town of Fort Dodge.

The establishment of a military post at this point was the result of a petition of the citizens of Boone county, Iowa, to the U. S. Senate and House of Representatives, praying that a post be established somewhere on the Des Moines River at or about the Lizzard Forks, for their better security against the Indians, and for the encouragement of settlers. By General Orders No. 19, War Department, Adjutant General's Office, 31 May, 1850, it was ordered:

For the protection of the frontier settlements of Iowa, a new post will be established under the direction of the Commander of the 6th Department, on the east bank of the Des Moines, opposite the mouth of Lizzard Fork; or preferably, if an equally eligible site can be found, at some point twenty-five or thirty miles higher up the Des Moines. The post will be established by a company of the 6th Infantry to be drawn from Fort Snelling, which will for the present constitute its garrison.

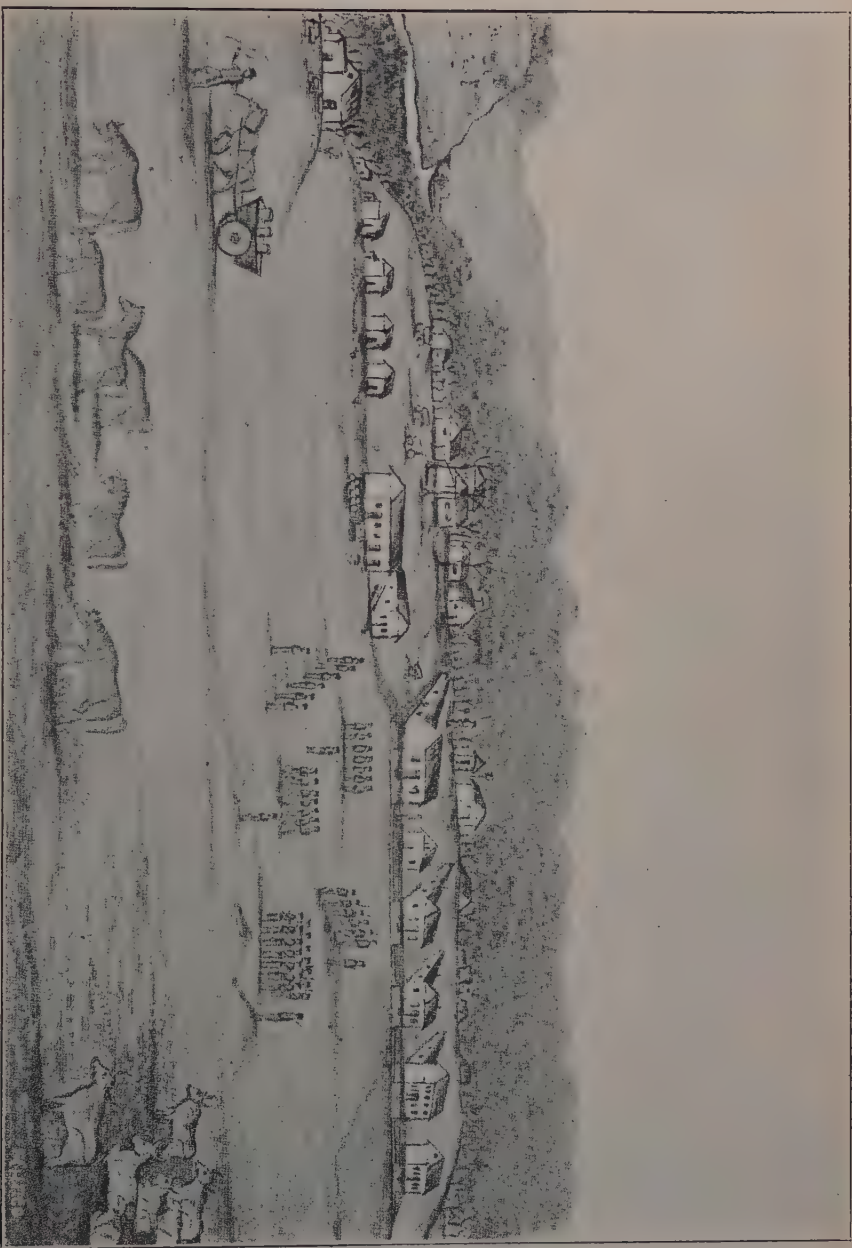
This order was supplemented by Orders No. 22, Headquarters 6th Military Department, St. Louis, Mo., 14 July, 1850, which directed that:

In pursuance of General Orders No. 19, current series, from the War Department, Brevet Major Woods 6th Infantry, will select a suitable site in the state of Iowa, near the mouth of the Lizzard Fork of the Des Moines river, for the establishment of a military post; which with his company E, 6th Infantry, he will proceed to construct and garrison, without however, withdrawing his personal attention from the duty of removing Indians, on which he is now specially engaged. A military reserve eight

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\*This article completes the series of historical sketches of Iowa Forts which has been appearing in the pages of this magazine. It was prepared at the Adjutant General's Office, War Department, Washington, D. C. The statements relating to each of our pioneer military establishments have for the most part been drawn from official sources and may, therefore, be accepted as correct. Brief as these sketches are, they include every important fact that is at present accessible. Other sources of information may come to light hereafter. In most cases we have been able to present an engraving, showing the old "fort" as it appeared when it was an important center, alive with the din of military activity. At this time, with the exception of one or two rough buildings at Fort Atkinson, scarcely a vestige of one of them is left to mark the spot where it stood. Indeed, the locations of some of them were long ago built over within the limits of thriving cities. But what they were in the old days may be learned from the pages of this work.—EDITOR OF THE ANNALS.





FORT DODGE IN 1822. FROM A PENCIL SKETCH BY THE LATE MAJ. WILLIAM WILLIAMS.



miles in length (four miles above the post, and four below) along the river, and two miles in depth on either side, will be marked off and appropriated exclusively to the present use of the Government. The proper Staff Departments will forthwith provide the stores and supplies necessary in the construction of the post on the Des Moines, and for the subsistence and temporary shelter of the garrison.

Immediately on receipt of this Order at Fort Snelling, Captain Samuel Woods with his Company E of the 6th Infantry, two officers and sixty-six men who were then in the field, broke camp and proceeded to the point designated, where they arrived on the second of August, 1850, and established a post, which they named *Fort Clarke*, in honor of Brevet Brigadier General Newman S. Clarke, Colonel 6th Infantry, then commanding the 6th Military Department. According to Prof. Tuttle (*History of Iowa*, 1876) the first encampment was on the ground now lying between the public square and Walnut street, between Fourth and Fifth streets, in the present town of Fort Dodge. Materials for building the necessary quarters for the troops were at once prepared and their construction so rapidly pushed forward that by the first of December they were in a condition for occupancy. Early in the spring of 1851, we find Major Woods urging upon the War Department the necessity of establishing a postoffice at the fort, around which settlers were commencing to congregate and recommending Mr. William Williams, the post trader, as a suitable person to assume its charge. During the session of Congress of 1850-51 we find the merchants of Dubuque petitioning for the building of a road from their town to Fort Clarke, but beyond an estimate of the topographical engineers of the approximate cost of such a road, no action seems to have been had in the matter during the lifetime of the post.

Correspondence between the fort and the authorities at St. Louis and Washington appears to have been limited to mere requisitions for supplies, the rendition of statistical returns, and such formal reports as afford little information regarding the events of this occupation, none of which seem

to have been at all removed from the ordinary career of an extreme frontier post. It was regarded at no time more than a temporary post, although, as was customary in all such establishments, and as set forth in the order already cited, a reservation was laid off with the flag-staff of the fort as an initial point, with lines running four miles to the north and south, along the Des Moines river, and two miles to the east and west on either bank, but before this could be surveyed and properly laid out and declared, the courts had decided that the so-called "Des Moines grant" extended above Raccoon fork to the source of the Des Moines; which decision gave every alternate section to the State of Iowa for internal improvements; thus throwing the post and its buildings beyond the limits of the public domain. There is evidence, however, that Major Woods and his command found few idle moments in the routine of camp duty, in restraining the Indians from their inclinations to depredate the settlements, and in controlling their district, which embraced all the frontier of Iowa from the Des Moines to the Missouri.

On the 25th of June, 1851, by General Orders No. 34, from the Headquarters of the Army, the name of the post was changed to *Fort Dodge*, doubtless in compliment to the Dodges (Gen. Henry and Augustus Caesar), father and son, who at that time were United States senators from the states of Wisconsin and Iowa, and who were among the pioneers of that section. At the same time there were several other forts occupied by troops under the name of Clark or Clarke—one of which had been recently located further west by a company of the 6th Infantry—with the effect of causing no little confusion in the forwarding of mail and supplies.

Several causes operated toward the breaking up of the post which was contemplated at intervals during the whole period of its existence. It was urged that the necessity for the presence of troops in that vicinity was of less importance than at a point further north, and that for all practical pur-



poses the troops at Fort Crawford (Prairie du Chien) were amply sufficient to protect that vicinity. The country was being rapidly settled up, Indian incursions becoming less frequent in this section and more troublesome on the north line of the new purchase from the Sioux in the Minnesota country, where it had been determined to locate one or more strong posts. It was not however until the spring of 1858 that plans were finally adopted by the War Department for the building of the work which was afterwards known as Fort Ridgely, on the Minnesota, when, under date of 16th March, General Clarke was charged with its construction, which was directed to be simultaneous with the breaking up of Forts Scott and Dodge. General Clarke's Order (No. 9) is dated Headquarters 6th Military Department, Jefferson Barracks, Mo., March 30th, 1853, and directs that:

In pursuance of instructions from General Headquarters, Forts Scott and Dodge will be broken up; the garrison of the former will be marched to Fort Leavenworth, and that of the latter by the most practicable route at the earliest moment the season will permit, to the new post on the Minnesota. The Commanding Officer will take immediate measures for carrying this into effect, and for sending to the neighboring posts such of the public property as may be needed at them, and for selling the remainder.

Accordingly, on the 18th April Major Woods left the post with the larger part of the command for the new site on the Minnesota, leaving 2d Lieutenant Corley with twenty men to dispose of the property. On the 2d June, 1853, Lieut. Corley, with the remainder of the troops, marched out of the camp, pulling down the flag from its staff, and before noon that day Fort Dodge as a military post had been wholly abandoned. Such of the buildings as remained, including a steam saw-mill, were disposed of at public sale, the principal purchaser being Mr. William Williams, the late post trader and postmaster, who remained at the site with a view of becoming its owner as soon as the lands could be surveyed and placed on sale. "On the 27th March, 1854," says Prof. Tuttle (page 218), "the first town plat was surveyed on the premises known as the fort site, the land hav-

ing become the property of Major Williams who had made the purchase in January, 1854."

There had been no change in the garrison of the post, from its first occupation until its final abandonment, Company E of the 6th Infantry performing that duty during the whole period. Of the officers Bvt. Maj. Samuel Woods, its first commandant, was also its last. A few years later that officer was transferred to the Pay Department, in which he subsequently reached the rank of colonel and assistant paymaster general, and was retired from active service on the 24th January, 1881, at his own request, having been over forty years in active service. Colonel Woods died September 22, 1887, at Oakland, California.

First Lieutenant and brevet Major Lewis A. Armistead, the second in command and acting assistant quartermaster and commissary of subsistence during the whole period of occupation, reached his captaincy 3rd March, 1855, but together with 2d Lieut. James L. Corley, who joined the command upon the resignation of 2d Lieutenant Tubbs, resigned the service in May, 1861, to cast his lot with the South.

#### NOTES.

Samuel Woods entered West Point Military Academy, from Indiana, in 1833. He graduated No. 36 in his class of fifty in 1837. His military life was one of great activity and usefulness. He served in the Florida war with the Seminole Indians and was engaged in the battle of Okeechobee, December 25, 1837. He participated in several battles in the Mexican war and was brevetted for gallantry and meritorious conduct at Chapultepec. He afterwards served on the northwestern frontier, and was at Fort Dodge, Iowa, from 1850 to '53.

Lewis A. Armistead was two years at West Point, but never graduated. However, he was appointed 2d Lieutenant in the 6th U. S. Infantry in 1839. He was awarded brevets for gallantry in the battles of Contreras, Churubusco, Molino del Rey and Chapultepec. He resigned from the regular army in 1861, entering the Confederate service in which he became a brigadier general. He was wounded at Antietam. At Gettysburg he was in Pickett's charge, in which he fell mortally wounded and died a prisoner.

James L. Corley entered the military academy in 1846, graduating in 1850. He was promoted to 2d lieutenant in 1851, and to 1st lieutenant in 1855. His service up to 1857 was on the frontiers of Iowa, Kansas and Missouri. He was sent to California in 1858 where he remained in the regular army until 1861, when he resigned to enter the Confederate service. Of his subsequent history we have no record. He died at Norfolk, Va., in 1883, at the age of 54. He was the last army officer in command at Fort Dodge.

Lieutenant John L. Tubbs was not at West Point and we have no record of his civil or military history.

## PASSING OF THE WALNUT.

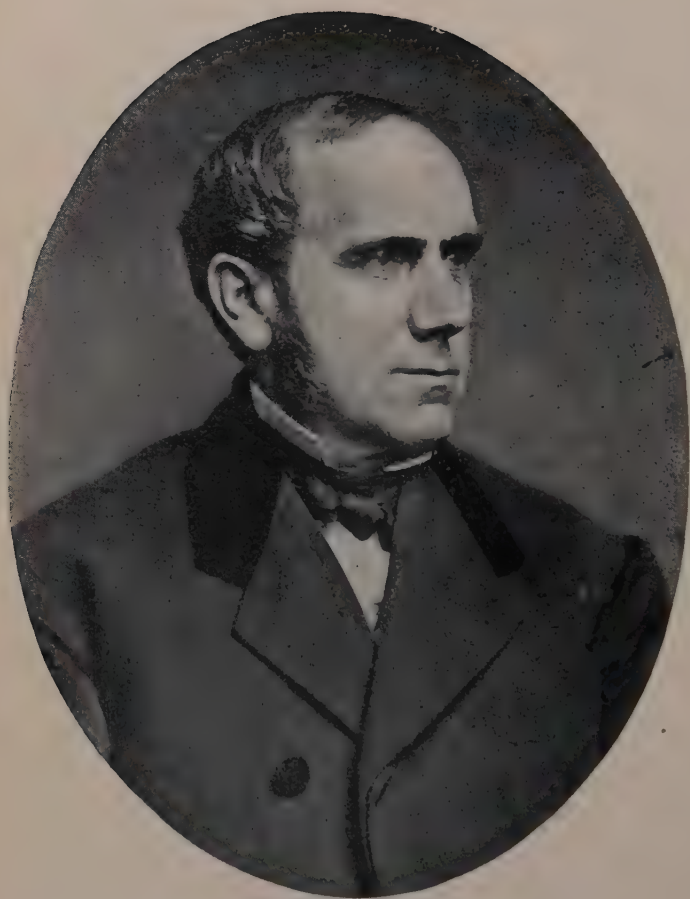
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At Wabash, Indiana, the other day was enacted a somewhat pathetic scene. The last merchantable walnut logs had been brought to the city on twenty-one wagons. The procession passed through the business portion of the city, and some of the older ones said it looked very much like a funeral procession, and expressed themselves: "There goes the last of the black walnut!" When one lets memory run back to pioneer days in Indiana, and remembers with what prodigality black walnut was used for all purposes it is quite enough to bring sombre thoughts. That everything must pass away at some time or other is a foregone conclusion. The deer, the prairie chicken, the wild turkey and the buffalo have ever been used to point to the wicked prodigality of man; but now that the inanimate denizens of the same forests and prairies have been sacrificed, it is a double grief to those who saw them in their magnificence, to see them passing away until there is not a vestige left worth naming. During the last sixty years there has been enough walnut timber burned up in log heaps in the heavily timbered states to pay the national debt if it were standing today, with its accumulated growth. Why was it thus sacrificed? Merely to get it out of the way. Walnut is said to have required the best soil on which to grow, and the mere fact that the trees were growing on certain portions of the land to be "cleared up" for farming purposes sealed their doom; for it was the land the pioneer was after and not the timber. Some years ago it was discovered that black walnut was the finest wood from which to make counters, bedsteads, tables, chairs and desks, and the country was searched for it in every nook and corner. The wooded portions of Iowa did not escape; for in 1883, and later, some men came out here from the East and went up and down our rivers buying and cutting all the walnut timber they could find. It was rafted down to Des Moines and sawed up into lumber or shipped

away in the bulk by rail. Since the cutting of these supplies this kind of timber has become most valuable, and men who used walnut beams for their barns erected forty years ago, have only to name the price for the walnut lumber, old as it is, and there will be a buyer for every foot of it. In some instances old walnut rails have been bought, of which to make gun stocks, and the purchasers hugged themselves because of their good fortune. Some day there will be a great cry for this favorite wood which cannot be responded to for the reason of the improvidence of the men who have an abundance of land, but did not have the foresight to plant walnut trees and have them coming along to meet the new demands. On examination of some of the logs which were accepted as marketable, it has been found that many of them were not more than fifty years old. Had a few thousand acres of waste land been planted half a century ago, there would now be a supply; but as it is the coming generations will have to wait. In some of the older states there were stately trees of the coveted walnut standing; but when prices were offered for them which seemed fabulous to the owners, they were sold root and branch and carted off to the ever-hungry saw mills, and latterly to fill the heart's desires of those who must have walnut furniture, no matter what the cost. Some of the first houses in Des Moines were built of walnut lumber almost entirely from foundation to the rafters and siding. The old house occupied for so many years by Wesley Redhead, built in 1853-4, on Locust street, lately torn down, had walnut weather-boarding, sawed from our native lumber and planed by hand in the usual laborious way; and many of our old houses and churches were built of the same material, only to give place to the march of progress. If our forefathers could have seen sixty years in advance, their children and grand children might now have had fortunes galore and "money to throw at the birds!"—*Tacitus Hussey in the Mail and Times, Des Moines, July 21, 1900.*







CHIEF JUSTICE GEORGE G. WRIGHT, 1870.

# ANNALS OF IOWA.

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## EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

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### JUDGE GEORGE G. WRIGHT.

Mr. Gue's interesting sketch of the life and public services of this illustrious Iowa pioneer, jurist and statesman, embodies the principal events in a most useful life and fortunate public career. Coming here a young man, good fortune attended him from the beginning to the end. He was always an especial favorite of the people. Those who knew him best gave him their confidence with no reservations. He was a member of the State senate for four years, serving the two legislative sessions of 1848 and 1850-51. Later on he came quite as a matter of course to the Supreme bench of the State where he won his crowning reputation. After he retired from the bench he was borne to the United States senate upon a tide of personal popularity which has scarcely ever been equalled in our State. He was a fine type of the Christian gentleman—always dignified and courteous, and his personal friends were coextensive with his acquaintance. Coming to Iowa so early, he was acquainted with most of the men who figured in public life. Mr. Gue graphically sets forth how proud Judge Wright was to be called to the presidency of the Iowa Pioneer Law Makers Association. Of all his public honors he prized this as by no means the least. While his health permitted he seldom missed attending the annual re-unions of the early settlers of Van Buren county, where he was always most heartily welcomed. They continued to call him "George Wright," as they did in the days when he was a young pioneer lawyer at their county seat. He possessed one marked characteristic which will account for much of his personal popularity. This was his love of association with young men, whom he continued to

influence as long as his life lasted. If a bill was before the legislature in which he felt an interest, he argued the case to the young men who were generally glad to further his wishes. Socially, he was always a pleasant person to meet, and while he was a man of positive convictions, he had few or no enemies. His life was one of eminent usefulness and when he was called hence the entire State mourned his departure. The most permanent and distinguishing feature of his public record will long be consulted in the Reports of the Iowa Supreme Court from 1854 to 1870.

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### THE LEHIGH BONE-BED.

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An editorial article appeared in Vol. III, current series of this magazine (pp. 647-9), in which a visit to that locality was mentioned, with the surmise that possibly it might be what is known as a "kitchen-midden," or "refuse heap," of some long-ago dwellers in the Des Moines valley. Ancient mounds abound in that section, and stone implements and fragments of pottery are often found thereabouts. But opinions as to the origin of this bone-bed are various. One Iowa naturalist, who, by the way, had not visited it, ventured the suggestion that there might have been a slough or swamp at that place in which large numbers of animals had been mired and perished. Another believed that the elk and buffalos had been driven over the high bluffs by the Indians and slaughtered in large numbers. Not long ago Prof. Samuel Calvin, our distinguished State Geologist, visited the deposit and made a hasty examination of the stratum of bones, as well as of the geological features of the locality. At our solicitation he sent the following brief but highly interesting account of his observations for these pages:

An interesting accumulation of bones, belonging apparently to the buffalo or American bison, has recently been unearthed at a point three or four miles north of Lehigh, in Webster county, Iowa. The find occurs a few rods back from the Des Moines river, near the mouth of a secondary



ravine which has appropriately been named "Bone-yard hollow." The bones are numerous and seem to have been piled together in a promiscuous heap. By far the larger number are in an advanced stage of decay; the teeth being the only skeletal parts which can be said to be reasonably well preserved. The hundreds of teeth, chiefly molars and pre-molars, taken from the locality, indicate that a large number of individual skeletons had been heaped together by some process or other. All the specimens which had been taken out at the time the writer visited the locality had been secured by a process of undercutting at the base of a low bank of earth, and the softened bones—everything indeed except the teeth—were destroyed by the operation.

From six to eight feet of fine silt overlies the bones; and this deposit, charged with numerous shells of land snails representing several species of *Mesodon*, seems at first glance to be a portion of a distinct terrace which extends along the Des Moines river for some distance southward from Bone-yard hollow. The terrace is flat-topped, eight or ten rods wide, and fifteen or twenty feet high where it fronts the river flood plain. The river is here bounded by steep bluffs eighty to a hundred feet in height; and, for some distance back from the river, Bone-yard hollow and all the other lateral ravines are picturesque gorges cut in Carboniferous sandstone. As to age, the terrace dates back practically to the Glacial Epoch; it should probably be referred to the time immediately following the withdrawal of the Wisconsin glaciers, when in this region the ice which had previously choked the valley had melted away and left the channel free, but while glaciers still lingered about the head-waters of the stream and gave origin to more or less copious, silt-bearing floods.

Now the question arises as to whether the deposit of bones is older than the terrace. Is the overlying silt an original part of the terrace with which it is associated and into which it blends with apparently perfect homogeneity? If so it would be a most interesting fact. For arrow points, deftly fashioned by human hands, are associated with the bones and teeth in such wise as to leave no doubt that man and the animals represented by the buried skeletons were contemporaneous. It looks as if there had been no disturbance of the terrace or additions to its materials; forest trees have grown to maturity since the bones were covered; many facts, which there is not space here to enumerate, might be cited in support of the hypothesis that the bone deposit was there before the materials of the terrace were laid down; and yet there is a possibility, a very strong probability in fact, that the bones and arrow points of this interesting locality are much younger than the latest Wisconsin floods which swept down the valley of the Des Moines.

The bone deposit occurs at the point where the terrace abuts against the bluff. It also occurs at the point where the terrace was cut transversely by the stream which excavated Bone-yard hollow. The lateral valley is somewhat widened at this point; the little stream has shifted its course so that it is no longer cutting the upper end of the terrace, the materials of which have assumed a stable slope. The bones happened to be piled at

the very point where a slight re-adjustment of the terrace materials, coupled with the waste and wash from the bluff, would cover them with a silt indistinguishable from that laid down by the older Wisconsin floods. That the deposit is old compared with the historic period of Iowa may safely be affirmed; but that it is preglacial or interglacial, as would at first sight seem to be the case, is highly improbable. Under what conditions and for what purpose the bones were accumulated where they are now found is a question for the ethnologist.

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### CORN AND HAY AS FUEL.

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Along in the early seventies, chiefly in 1871-'72, corn was plenty and cheap, while coal and wood were scarce and dear. Some man tried the experiment of using corn for fuel and announced the result as a success. He found that from burning a dollar's worth of good Iowa corn more heat could be evolved than from the wood or coal that could be bought with the same money. Others had occasionally tried the same experiment, in Iowa and Illinois, even as far back as 1857, and reached the same conclusion. The writer of this item distinctly remembers seeing corn so utilized both in heating furnaces and in cooking and heating stoves. In many cases corn and bituminous coal were burned together, making hot fires. But cheap as corn was in those days it seemed a criminal waste to use it in this way. When one considers the amount of choice food for man and beast that is contained in a bushel of our magnificent Iowa corn, no matter how cheap it may become, there would seem to be no excuse for burning it for fuel except in some dire extremity. But with many people the question was merely one of dollars and cents. Which fuel was the cheapest?

During the same period, perhaps reaching down some years later, prairie hay was used for fuel in like manner in Northwestern Iowa. Large cylindrical heating stoves were constructed from thin sheet iron, expressly for burning hay. A machine was invented for twisting the hay into hard coils so that it should not go up in a flash and burn too rapidly.

These machines were something like the cutting-boxes used by farmers for chopping corn-stalks or straw for fodder. A box three or four feet long, a foot or more in width, and a foot in depth, was attached to an iron gearing which gathered in and twisted the hay. The heavy iron balance-wheels which were used on corn-shellors were easily adjusted to these mostly home-made machines. One person was required to turn the wheel, and another to feed the hay into the box, from which it was rapidly drawn into the iron gearing. The product was large clumsy coils of hay which were fed into and consumed by the big stoves. Prairie hay would burn down to a live coal, and so remain for some time, constantly giving out heat. And then it was both plenty and cheap. On some "blizzard days," however, it required lively work to keep a large house warm with this evanescent fuel. It is probable that prairie hay was utilized in this manner for several years, until the extension of railroads enabled the settlers to supply themselves with bituminous coal from the mines of central Iowa. And even now, whenever a coal famine is abroad, whether due to strikes of operatives, lack of transportation, or a snow blockade, corn and hay may again serve as winter fuel. In fact, we believe they are still so utilized in regions farther north.

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#### DOCUMENTARY MATERIAL RELATING TO THE HISTORY OF IOWA.

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Some four or five years ago Prof. B. F. Shambaugh, of the Iowa State University, published the first of a series of pamphlets with the above title. These pamphlets received a cordial welcome at once, though they did not escape the criticism that the "material" presented was already sufficiently accessible. This opinion was wholly incorrect. The pamphlets were made up from laws passed by Congress relating to the Old Northwest and the organization of terri-

tories—the acts, resolutions and memorials of the Territorial legislatures of Ohio, Indiana, Wisconsin and Michigan. These various documents disclose the origin of local government, showing how a great region was governed before any subdivisions took place, and how territories were organized and governed until their own legislatures took that responsibility upon themselves. All this material existed and was “in books recorded,” it is true, but was only accessible through great effort and at much expense. The plan adopted by Dr. Shambaugh was to page these pamphlets for volumes of about 300 pages each. Two have now appeared and four to six are to follow. From the time that the first volume appeared the work has been widely quoted by historical students. When it is completed it will become one of the most valuable sources of western history. The thought which inspired this work was a happy one. Carried out to a successful conclusion, it will have a permanent and most important place in the historical literature of the Middle West.

Hon. James F. Wilson began his address before the makers of our present constitution, at the reunion in Des Moines, in the winter of 1882, with the following philosophical statement of the importance of a study of the laws of a people in arriving at a clear understanding of their history:

Law is history. A substantially correct history of a people may be written from a copy of their laws. The philosophy of the world's movements may be read in the lines of the laws of the nations which have come and gone. Give the competent historian this data and he will put the nations of the past before you. The growth of a nation may be read in its laws. They tell us how it commenced, how it progressed, what point of excellence it reached, when it faltered and how it failed. They tell us of its moral conditions, its degree of intelligence, its pursuits, its dominant thoughts, its characteristic traits. In the lines of its laws we read of its trade, its commerce, its occupations, its times of peace, its preparation for conflict, its victories and defeats. Indeed, the careful student of a nation's laws will arrive at a more correct knowledge of its real self than ordinarily comes from reading history as it is generally written. For the things which most nearly, practically and definitely affect a people are almost sure of a lodgment in their laws.

In investigating any or all these “points of history” the



future student must have recourse to this great work, which will undoubtedly become sufficiently comprehensive to obviate the necessity of consulting original publications. The materials are exceedingly well edited, showing the sources whence they were derived. In fact, the importance of the work can scarcely be overestimated. He who reads State or Western history which is written after this time will learn from the multitude of references and quotations that in Shambaugh's "Documentary Material" Senator Wilson's idea of the importance of studying the laws of a people to gain a knowledge of their history has been fully realized.

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#### GOVERNOR KIRKWOOD'S FIRST NOMINATION.

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Ralph P. Lowe succeeded James W. Grimes as Governor of Iowa in 1858. Mr. Lowe had served in the first Constitutional Convention (1844), and in other useful and honorable positions. His name is often met with in the public journals of early Iowa. He had become so generally known and esteemed that he was easily nominated for the Governorship by the Republicans in 1857. In this high office he made an excellent record, and had the "piping times of peace" promised to continue he would undoubtedly have been renominated for a second term, in accordance with the political precedents of those days. Personally, he combined a gentle graciousness of manner with high dignity. He immediately placed every one who came into his presence at ease. He was a reliable and abiding friend, wherever his friendship was bestowed. His portrait in the capitol, from the easel of George H. Yewell, shows a most kindly face and one to be wholly trusted. How he would have succeeded had he become the "War Governor" of Iowa can at this time be but a matter of opinion, and opinions upon the subject are not likely to be called out at this late day. Those, how-

ever, who knew him well had the highest confidence in his ability to meet any emergency likely to arise. But if the clouds of war were not already gathering in the Southern horizon when the State convention of the dominant party assembled at Des Moines in 1859, there were many alarming portents of the great crisis which came in 1861. Previous to its assemblage there had been some discussion relative to the fitness of Gov. Lowe for the stern emergencies not unlikely to arise. Kirkwood came into the State in 1855, but during these four years he had given evidence of the possession of great ability both in the State Senate and upon the stump. He had become in a large degree a popular representative of the feeling and determination of loyal Iowa. But Governor Lowe was not disposed to stand aside for any man. An early settler of the State, one who had been largely influential from the start, it seemed to him that in the matter of just deserts, no man ought to stand before him. In contrast with him Mr. Kirkwood was comparatively a new comer. But the feeling in favor of Mr. Kirkwood developed very rapidly upon the gathering of the delegates in Des Moines. Among other influences, according to Henry W. Lathrop, his biographer, he had the powerful support of Ex-Governor Grimes. It soon became a matter of great doubt whether Mr. Lowe could be re-nominated—for the simple reason above stated. At this juncture his name was proposed for Judge of the Supreme Court and it immediately became apparent that if he would accept it there would be no question of his nomination. The matter was presented to him, and though he was at first most reluctant to yield his claims to the executive office, he finally gave his consent, and so both men were nominated—Mr. Kirkwood for Governor and Mr. Lowe for Judge of our highest court. In this latter position Governor Lowe drew the short term, and became Chief Justice January 12, 1860. He was re-elected in 1861, serving until January 1, 1868. He was Chief Justice in 1860-'61, '66 and '67.

A PIONEER NEWSPAPER.

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Some time ago Mr. Gurdon Pellett, of Binghampton, New York, sent to the secretary of state, who turned it over to the Historical Department, Number 1 of *The Republican*, published at Mitchell, Mitchell county, Iowa, October 25, 1856. He stated that it was the first copy printed, and that it was sold at auction for \$13. This interesting paper is neat and clean, and in an excellent state of preservation. It supported John C. Fremont and William L. Dayton for president and vice-president. Henry O'Conner of Muscatine county, S. A. Russell of Washington county, Daniel F. Miller of Lee county, and William M. Stone of Marion county, were the candidates for presidential electors, and John T. Clark of Allamakee for delegate to the convention which adopted our present State constitution. Henry O'Connor was afterwards elected attorney general, and is now living at Sioux City. W. M. Stone was distinguished in the Civil War and later elected governor. S. A. Russell became a well-known State legislator. Daniel F. Miller served in congress (1849-1851), and long afterwards (1894) in the Iowa house of representatives. The three last named are now dead. We copy from *The Republican* the following interesting items:

For several weeks past the prairies on all sides of us have been swept over by fires, resulting in much serious damage to many of our country people. We have heard of several who have lost not only the entire fruits of their summer's labor, but also their houses and stables; thus leaving them without shelter, and their herds of cattle without fodder for the coming winter. This is a bitter lot for those who have to depend upon their daily toil. Houses can be rebuilt, but the season is too far spent for hay gathering, even if the fires had made no ravages. We believe it is the opinion that hay and corn will be high this winter, and that many cattle will suffer from the scarcity, though we hope these fears will not be realized. Much damage has also been done to the timber. To close one's eyes to the damage being done, it is a beautiful sight to see the fires sweep over the prairies at a distance in the night, but on a near approach it partakes more of the terrible.

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Building is progressing at this place as fast as lumber and help can be

obtained. Though one year ago this month, but one small frame building had been erected at this place, now Mitchell and Eureka contain not far from fifty frame buildings, while several more are to be erected before winter sets in. This will be a busy winter for hauling logs, and next season will witness a vast improvement in the appearance and size of our town.

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Prairie chickens are very abundant upon our prairies, and deer, in various sized herds, are not unfrequently seen, affording ample sport for huntsmen, as well as quite an item of food.

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### ORIGIN OF A BENEFICENT LAW.

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A short time ago Mr. Ira Cook, of Des Moines, gave a friend an interesting account of the origin of the Iowa law for the adoption of children, kindly consenting to put it in writing for these pages. This wise and most humane measure passed the house by a unanimous vote. (Jour. H. R., 1858, p. 527.) Eight senators voted against it, and twenty-three for its passage. (Senate Journal, 1858, p. 434.) There has never been a voice raised for its repeal. The original act may be found on page 102, Laws of 1858. It was published in the Revision of 1860, and in the Codes of 1873 and 1895. Its provisions are so acceptable to the people of Iowa that it may be regarded as one of our permanent laws:

*Editor of The Annals:*

SIR: Referring to a conversation with you a few days since, in which I gave you a bit of history regarding the origin of the enactment of the present statute regulating the adoption of children and your request to put the same in writing, I have to say: That in the summer of 1857, while my wife was on a visit in Davenport, she had given to her a little girl, some three or four years of age, by the child's father, it being understood (and a written contract made to that effect), that she should rear the child as her own. We became very much attached to the little one, and after she had been with us eight or ten months, I became uneasy because we really had no legal claim over her, as against her father. One day along in the winter of 1858, I asked Hon. John A. Kasson if there was any law by which we could obtain legal authority over the person of the child? He replied: "No, only by the apprentice law; but there ought to be a statute regulating the adoption of children." He said further: "We will have one right now." He then and there drew up a bill of two sections, afterwards



increased to five, and the legislature being at that time in session, he asked Hon. John Clark to introduce it. After the usual preliminaries it was passed, unanimously by the house and with a few opposition votes in the senate. It was ordered to take effect upon publication, which was done immediately. In the meantime I sent a copy to Cook & Dillon, at Davenport, and John F. Dillon drew a deed of adoption in accordance with the law. He caused it to be executed by the father and returned it to me. My wife and I executed it and I put it on record. It now stands as the first deed recorded under that law.

IRA COOK.

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## DR. SALTER'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO IOWA HISTORY.

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We have had no more welcome contributor to the pages of *THE ANNALS* than the Rev. Dr. William Salter, the distinguished pastor of the Congregational Church of Burlington, Iowa. He has written much relating to the history of the Territory and State of Iowa, always with the highest purpose in view, and his accuracy has never been questioned. He is a thorough and careful student and investigator, going to original sources, where such are accessible, and sparing no pains to verify any statement for which he is responsible. Whatever historical studies he may bequeath to coming generations will be accepted as the truth. His most considerable undertaking and one which will undoubtedly have a permanent place in the history of the West, is "The Life of James W. Grimes, Third Governor of Iowa." This has been widely accepted as an invaluable historical work, not only as a deserved tribute to one of the greatest American statesmen of his time, but as throwing much light upon Iowa history, when our State, as well as the Nation, were breaking away from the control of "the Slave Power," in all of which Governor Grimes bore a part that has made his name illustrious. But all of Dr. Salter's works possess great value to students of Iowa and western history. We have, therefore, secured the following bibliography of his writings, on Iowa history, from which the reader may readily locate and

refer to any of them. They deserve a place in every public library in Iowa:

1. Address in commemoration of the Two Hundredth Anniversary of the Discovery of Iowa, delivered before the Historical Society of Iowa, at Iowa City, June 23, 1873.  
ANNALS OF IOWA, 1873. xi. 501-515.
2. The Western Border of Iowa in 1804, 1806.  
Iowa His. Record. x. 71-'8.
3. The Eastern Border of Iowa in 1805-'6.  
Record. x. 107-121.
4. Dubuque in 1820.  
Record. xvi. 100-106.
5. Henry Dodge, Governor of the original Territory of Wisconsin (including Iowa, etc.). 1836-1838.  
Record. v. 338-361; vi. 391-422, 445-467; vii. 101-119; viii. 251-267, 297-317; xiv. 289-309.
6. Letters of Henry Dodge to George W. Jones.  
ANNALS. 3d Series. iii. 220, 290, 384, 560.
7. James G. Edwards (founder of *The Burlington Hawk-Eye*, author of the cognomen "Hawkeyes" as applied to the people of Iowa): a sermon preached with reference to his death, August 10, 1851,—reprinted in part in *Burlington Hawk-Eye*, June 11, 1899.
8. James Clarke, 3d Governor of the Territory of Iowa. 1845-'6.  
Record. iv. 1-12.
9. James W. Grimes, 3d Governor of the State.  
D. Appleton & Co., N. Y. 1876. pp. 398. Record. viii. 337-360.
10. The Progress of Religion in Iowa for Twenty-five Years (1833-1858).  
Burlington, June, 1858.
11. "The Death of the Soldier of the Republic," with reference to the death of Capt. C. C. Cloutman at the storming of Fort Donelson, Feb. 15, 1862. Ottumwa, May 18, 1862.
12. Rev. Benjamin A. Spaulding—sermon preached at his funeral. Ottumwa, April 2, 1867.
13. Memorial Discourse upon the Thirtieth Anniversary of the Denmark Congregational Association. Oct. 28, 1873.
14. Joseph W. Pickett, Superintendent of Home Missions in Southern Iowa and in the Rocky Mountains.  
James Love, Burlington. 1880. pp. 150.
15. The Planting of Iowa—Address upon laying the corner-stone of Gaston Hall, Tabor College, Mills County, June 30, 1886.
16. Fiftieth Anniversary of the Congregational Church of Burlington.  
Nov. 25, 1888; reprint in part in Record. v. 212-222.
17. Augustus C. Dodge, U. S. Senator, 1848-1855.  
Record. iii. 385-422.

18. Mrs. Clara A. Dodge (A. C.)  
Record. vii. 159-161.
19. Mrs. Elizabeth S. Grimes (J. W.)  
Record. vii. 180-184.
20. Sermon in Commemoration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Congregational Association of Iowa, at Des Moines, May 21, 1890.  
Minutes of the Association, 1890. pp. 48-59.
21. Major General John M. Corse.  
ANNALS OF IOWA. 3d Series. ii. 1-19, 105-145, 278-304.
22. Fiftieth Anniversary of the Adoption of the State Constitution by the People of Iowa Territory. August, 1896.  
ANNALS. 3d Series. ii. 509-517.
23. Celebration of the Semi-Centennial of the State, at Burlington, October 1-8, 1896.  
ANNALS. 3d Series. ii. 619-627.
24. Alfred Hebard.  
ANNALS. 3d Series. iii. 47-52.
25. The Old People's Psalm, with Reminiscences of the Iowa Band, and the Golden Wedding of the Rev. Dr. Ephraim Adams and Wife.  
E. C. Gnahn, Burlington. 1895. pp. 24.
26. Commemoration of Fifty Years' Pastorate in Burlington, Iowa. April 12, 1896.  
E. C. Gnahn, Burlington. 1896. pp. 98.

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### DR. JOSIAH L. PICKARD.

The news has gone forth that Dr. J. L. Pickard, ex-president of the State University of Iowa, has recently sold his home in Iowa City, and is about to leave the State. This is, indeed, sad news to the alumni of the University and to all those who may be classed as workers in Iowa history.

After years of experience as an educator (first as principal of Platteville Academy, then as state superintendent of Wisconsin, and finally as superintendent of the schools of Chicago) he took up his residence in Iowa City as president of the State University in 1878. In 1887 he retired from this position. But his work did not cease. Subsequently he served on the school board of Iowa City, and continued to fill the office of president of the Iowa State Historical Society. He was a member of the Board of Curators of this Society.

As a student of the history of Iowa and of the West in general, Dr. Pickard has been an inspiring leader. After

retiring from the University he devoted much of his time to the interests of the State Historical Society. He made valuable contributions from time to time to THE HISTORICAL RECORD and to THE ANNALS OF IOWA. His resignation from the Board of Curators of the Historical Society and departure from the State is a great loss to Iowa history. And yet his devotion to this work and the standards that he maintained therein will remain with us a rich heritage.

Dr. Pickard was always plain, simple, democratic. He never did things for show. He worked silently but effectively. His has been a great moral character, influencing profoundly the young men with whom he came in contact. In education he emphasized the acquisition of knowledge, not for its own sake, but rather for the sake of life and character. He led young men to seize upon ideals and to hold and cherish them. His devotion to high purpose, his steadfastness, and his gentleness withal made him one of the great powers in the history of this State.

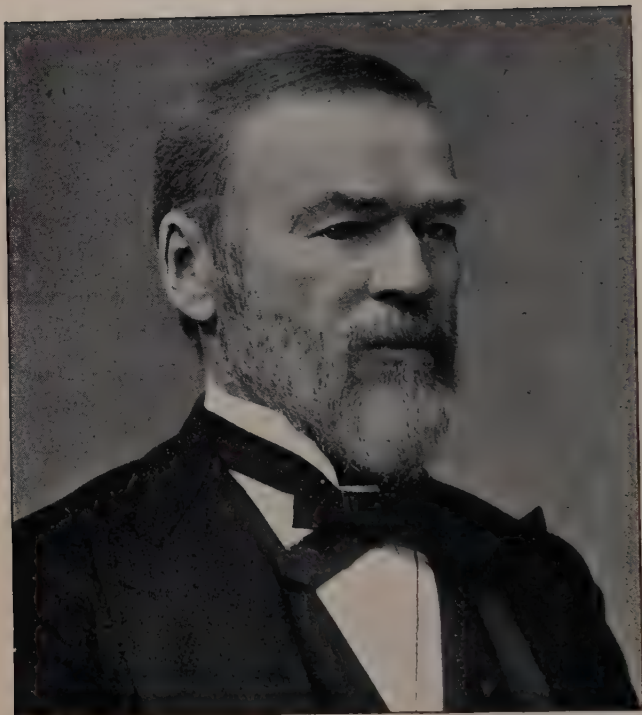
B. F. S.

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A HISTORICAL REPRINT.—Simultaneously with the publication of this number of THE ANNALS there will be issued by the Historical Department the first volume of the Laws of Iowa Territory (1838-9). This work will contain about 600 pages. It has been neatly printed, upon fine paper, and the binding is an excellent quality of law sheep, similar to that of the Iowa Supreme Court Reports. It is intended that a copy shall be deposited in each public library throughout the State, with such other distribution as may be directed by the Trustees of the Historical Department. The volume has been out of print more than forty years. Copies occasionally come to light in the hands of dealers in rare books, but this supply is a very limited one at best and wholly insufficient to meet a demand which is now yearly increasing. Its appearance will be welcomed by historical students and members of the bar throughout the State.







*John H. Gear*

THE LATE UNITED STATES SENATOR JOHN H. GEAR, 1825-1900.

## NOTABLE DEATHS.

JOHN HENRY GEAR was born at Ithaca, New York, April 7, 1825; he died at Washington, D. C., July 14, 1900. Such is the brief notice that spans the seventy-five years of a most useful life, a record of whose deeds can be but briefly summarized in these pages. His father, E. G. Gear, a clergyman of the Protestant Episcopal church, was a native of New London, Connecticut; his mother's maiden name was Marinda E. Cook; she was born in Middlebury, Vermont. Rev. Mr. Cook occupied pulpits in various places in Western New York until 1836, when he removed with his family, consisting of his wife and only son to Galena, Illinois. After remaining two years in this location, he received the government appointment of post chaplain of the United States army, at Fort Snelling, Minnesota. He died in 1874. We have little record of the early days of John Henry Gear's life, but from the age of eighteen his association with Iowa and his connection with Iowa history begins. In 1843 he commenced his business career in Burlington, Iowa, engaging as a clerk with the mercantile firm of Bridgeman and Partridge; he later accepted a similar position with W. F. Coolbaugh, wholesale grocer, at that time one of the leading merchants of Eastern Iowa. Five years of faithful service brought recognition to the young man, and he was made a member of the firm; five years later he became sole proprietor, and remained at the head of the establishment until 1880, when he retired from the business. In 1852 Mr. Gear was elected a member of the Burlington city council; in 1863 he was a candidate for mayor, and was the first Republican to be elected to that office on a party issue. In 1867, when the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Minnesota (now the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern) Railway was organized, Mr. Gear was chosen its first president, he being actively interested in the building of this line for the benefit of his home city. He also labored zealously for the construction of the Burlington & Southwestern (now the Chicago, Burlington & Kansas City) Railway, as well as the Burlington & Northwestern and the Burlington & Western Railways. He was also associated with many other enterprises, as an officer or stockholder, looking to the upbuilding of the business interests of his city and State. Mr. Gear's political career began in 1871, when he was elected a member of the House of the Fourteenth General Assembly. He was re-elected in 1873, and made speaker of the House, receiving the unanimous nomination of the Republicans. His courteous treatment and impartial rulings met with such general recognition that at the close of the session he was presented with an elaborately engrossed vote of thanks, signed by every member of the House. In 1875 he was again nominated and elected to his seat, and again chosen speaker,—an honor never before similarly conferred, and at the close of the session was made the recipient of a unanimous testimonial. His services for the State had by this time won for him marked attention, and his political career was watched with interest. His reputation as a parliamentarian had become more than state-wide, and this, together with fine executive ability, a pleasing personality, and thorough business training, rendered him a most desirable official, and in 1877 he was nominated for governor, elected by a large majority, and took his seat January 17, 1878, serving four years—being re-elected in October, 1879. During his two terms of office as governor the finances of the State were brought from a condition verging on insolvency to one of marked prosperity, Iowa at the time ranking with states practically without indebtedness. In recognition of his able administration of office and the thrift which characterized his methods, the people gave to their chief executive the title of "Old Business"—a title which has clung to him through all the after years of his eventful life. In 1881 Mr. Gear met his first political rebuff, as candidate

for United States senator. He was defeated by the late Senator Wilson. In 1886 he was elected to the Fiftieth Congress, and was re-elected in 1888. He was defeated in 1890, but reelected in 1892, serving in the interim as assistant secretary of the treasury, by appointment of President Harrison. In January, 1894, Mr. Gear was elected to the United States Senate. His term of office would have expired in 1901. In the winter of 1900, after one of the most spirited contests on record, in which a number of prominent Iowa men were candidates for the office, Senator Gear was elected to succeed himself. Though advanced in years and physically far from robust, it was hoped he might be spared to complete the term of service to which he had been elected, and the news of his death, after an illness of but a few hours, carried with it sincerest sorrow and regret. For nearly forty years Senator Gear was actively interested in the politics of his State and Nation. He was loyal to his friends and faithful to his trusts—his attention to details in his business career characterizing his management of the affairs of his constituents. He was not an orator, strictly speaking, but was a good and effective campaigner. In committee he was eminently successful, rarely failing to secure the passage of any measure he championed. He was noted for his remembrance of faces, and was seldom at a loss to recall a name, though the list of his acquaintances was probably the largest of any man in the State. It is safe to assume that the experiences of his own youth made him especially interested in the young men with whom he came in contact, for certain it is that such a bond of sympathy as existed between them is rarely witnessed, and they were ever his steadfast and valiant supporters. In Congress he distinguished himself, as a member of the Committee on Ways and Means, by his connection with the "McKinley Bill," some of the most important schedules of which owe their authorship to him. He was chairman of the Senate Committee on Pacific Railways during the last Congress, and through his efforts the government was enriched by many millions of dollars. Senator Gear was married in 1852 to Miss Harriett S. Foote, who survives him, and who has been to him champion and helpmeet in his public career as well as in home and social life. Of the four children born to them, the two now living are Margaret, wife of James W. Blythe, and Ruth, Mrs. Horace S. Rand. The home was one of generous hospitality. Senator Gear was most affable, and was approached with perfect freedom by those in the humblest walks of life, and was never too much occupied to give willing ear to matters of personal, as well as public, interest; while his generous spirit and kindness of heart have endeared him to the people as could no honors of State or Nation. His life-long friend, the Rev. Dr. William Salter, of Burlington, Iowa, spoke of him in a letter to a friend as "a unique and charming character."

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SAM M. CLARK was born in Van Buren county, Iowa, October 4, 1842; he died at Keokuk, August 11, 1900. He was the son of the Rev. Samuel Clark, the most distinguished Methodist Episcopal clergyman of South-eastern Iowa during our pioneer days. The father resided upon a farm a few miles from Keosauqua, where the subject of this notice spent his early years. In 1894 there appeared in the pages of *THE ANNALS* (Vol. i, 3d series, pp. 454-466) an appreciative sketch of the life of the Rev. Samuel Clark, from the pen of his gifted son who has now followed him to the grave. Young Clark was educated in the public schools near his home and in the old Des Moines Valley College at West Point, Lee county. He was an all around product of this State. It is recorded that he sought to enlist in the Union Army during the Civil War, but was rejected owing to his lack of health and strength. At the age of eighteen he entered the office of George G. Wright, who then resided at Keosauqua, and began the study of the law. He completed his law studies in the office of Rankin &



McCrary, of Keokuk, and was admitted to the bar in 1864. Immediately afterwards he was invited by J. B. Howell, who had published a paper several years earlier at Keosauqua, to join the staff of *The Gate City*, as associate editor. This invitation was accepted. Journalism and not the law was his proper field of effort, and it was not long until he had won an enviable reputation throughout the State. He was a keen-eyed observer, an omnivorous reader and a clear-headed, philosophic thinker. He became one of the ablest and most versatile editorial writers in Iowa. His early life on the farm, his habits of close observation, his appreciation and love of nature, and his wide acquaintance with the pioneers of our State, had given him a fund of out of the way knowledge possessed by no other Iowa journalist. And above and beyond all this, he was a man of the purest morals and the kindest heart. There are hundreds of men throughout the State who will say today: "The kindest words ever written about me were from the pen of Sam Clark." We once heard him reproached by a great Iowa jurist for so constantly "saying and doing things for other men and seldom anything for Sam Clark!" But he enjoyed the opportunities which fell in his way to act generously toward friends—and who was not his friend? If a friend called upon him at a busy moment in Washington, while he was serving in Congress, he was certain to be invited to a longer visit before he left the city. Nothing so pleased him as a long evening's visit with a valued friend. In 1894 he was elected to a seat in the national House of Representatives and re-elected two years later. He was always an important factor in his party's State conventions and councils, and very frequently the author of its platform of principles. When fit names were mentioned for governor or U. S. senator his would come first or close to the head of the list. He was a delegate in the Republican National conventions of 1872, '76 and '80. The president appointed him commissioner of education to the Paris Exposition of 1889, which gave him a long-coveted opportunity of travel in Europe. He was four years postmaster of the city of Keokuk. That he served twenty-one years as a member of the public school board of Keokuk, fourteen of which he was its president, shows the high confidence of those who knew him best and his own absorbing interest in the cause of education. It also shows that he shrank from no public duty, however laborious and unremunerative. In all the characteristics of a grand manhood he was admirably equipped. Fully thirty years he was recognized as one of the foremost Iowa editors, in many respects without an equal. He was possessed of that sublime patience which always enabled him to bide his time—and the fruition of his hopes doubtless came to him as far as was possible to one who was racked with acute pain during most of the years of his manhood. He was one who could "suffer and be strong."

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WALTER C. WILLSON was born at Arkwright, Chautauqua county, New York, December 28, 1824; he died at Webster City, Iowa, August 16, 1900. Mr. Willson came west some time in the early fifties with his brother, the late Sumler Willson, and remained for a while in Wisconsin. But in 1854 they removed to Iowa, with some money, but with a much larger capital in the way of perseverance, energy and enthusiastic ambition to achieve business success. They had started with the intention of pushing on still farther west or northwest, but upon reaching the beautiful plain upon which Webster City afterward arose, they determined to stop and build a town. A small tract of land had been laid out in town lots and called New-castle. They acquired a controlling interest in this new town and changed the name to Webster City. At that time the present county of Hamilton was a part of Webster county, as the reader may see by reference to the old maps. The Willsons rapidly made many improvements in their little town—erecting houses, keeping a hotel, building a mill, bridging the river,

improving the roads, securing better mail facilities, promoting immigration, encouraging the establishment of a newspaper, etc., etc. Probably the greatest service Mr. Walter Willson ever rendered to Webster City came through the division of Webster county. He was elected to the house of representatives of the State legislature of 1856—the last which assembled in Iowa City. He secured the passage of a law which divided Webster county, and created the new county of Hamilton, with Webster City and Fort Dodge named as the new county seats. Hon. W. W. Hamilton, a senator from Dubuque, who had been chosen president of the senate (lieutenant governors were only provided for in the constitution of 1857), favored Mr. Willson's bill. He was complimented by Mr. Willson by naming the new county Hamilton. Judge W. W. Hamilton was long a leading business man of Dubuque county—prominent in politics—and especially active in railroad extension to the westward. That Hamilton county bears his name was wholly due to the happy and kindly thought and appreciative disposition of Mr. Willson. Walter C. Willson, after some nine years of earnest work at Webster City, removed to Chicago, where he became a member of a prominent business house. But he returned to Webster City where he and his brother still retained large interests in real estate, and in 1868 they once more began their earnest work in promoting the growth of the town and county. Our space will not admit of an enumeration of the various business interests which they undertook alone or in a general way fostered and secured. In 1878 Mr. Walter Willson conceived the idea of building a railroad to the coal mines at Lehigh, Webster county, some 18 or 20 miles distant. (About this time his brother withdrew from the firm and henceforth their interests were separate, though they continued in the same brotherly friendship to the end of their days. Mr. Sumler Willson was thrown from a horse in 1882 and so severely injured that he died.) Several capitalists of Chicago and Wisconsin became interested with Mr. Willson in the construction of his railroad, which was successfully built. It proved a most excellent business enterprise, giving an outlet to vast amounts of coal and employment to a large number of men. Mr. Willson had been the active manager of the road since it was opened, and almost daily went out to Lehigh, keeping the closest watch of everything that transpired along the line. It was while thus engaged, on Thursday, August 16, that a car tipped over and pinned him to the ground. His injuries were so severe that he expired three hours afterwards. He was a man of rare business ability. No obstacle nor any amount of opposition could dampen his ardor. He had thus given forty-six years of earnest and faithful work to the development and growth of the business interests of his town and the surrounding country, all of which was crowned with a large degree of success. He was ever a friend to the laboring men whose respect was manifested by the great number who attended his funeral, especially from the coal regions, where he had been many years their employer. His funeral was the largest ever held in Hamilton county. He will be long remembered for his earnest labors as a successful pioneer legislator and far-seeing business man.

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MRS. SARAH CANDACE (PEARSE) PARKER, a descendant of the Welsh Pearses, the Scotch McLellans, the English Wilders, and the American Pecks and Monroes, the wife of Prof. L. F. Parker, of Grinnell, was born seventy-two years ago in Vermont and died at her home in Grinnell, June 5, 1900. In a model Puritan family she early acquired a love of knowledge, an optimistic character and an ambition to be useful. She graduated at Oberlin in 1851 under such teachers as Presidents Asa Mahan, Charles G. Finney and James H. Fairchild, and as Professors John Morgan, Timothy Hudson and James Monroe, a relative, and with such college friends as the widely known Lucy Stone, Antoinette L. Brown, Ferdinand

V. Hayden, the scientist, and Jacob Dolson Cox, the Union General, Governor of Ohio, and Grant's Secretary of the Interior. Much of her life was devoted to teaching. Before her graduation she taught two years in Cincinnati and was urged to accept the best place in the schools ever offered to a woman. After that time she taught in Willoughby Female Seminary in Ohio, and after her marriage she often taught some of her husband's classes or was in the same faculty with him. Of her teaching her eight years of continuous work in Iowa College (during seven of which she was the first lady principal) were the most conspicuous. Her hours in the classroom were a delight to teacher and to pupils. There literary subjects were mastered, and lifelong friendships were formed, for she took her pupils, like her children, into her heart, and often, when sick or despondent, into her own home under her personal care. During her forty-four years in Grinnell and Iowa City she was a leader in organizing and in maintaining literary, charitable and religious associations of which the Ladies' Education Society of Iowa College is specially noteworthy for its usefulness and prosperity. The secretaryship of the Iowa Branch of the W. B. M. I. absorbed much of her time and gave her rare pleasure during the last twenty-four years of her life. Her love of nature and of art was greatly quickened by her tours in Europe and in the United States. Her poetic nature revealed itself in her reading, her conversation, her correspondence, her descriptive articles, in occasional poems from her pen, and in the ease with which choice fragments of poetry became fixed in her memory. A fuller notice of her life in a booklet is anticipated.

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HENRY B. HENDERSHOTT was born in the State of Ohio, in 1816; he died at Ottumwa, Iowa, August 10, 1900. He came to Burlington, Iowa, in 1837, where he studied law. He was admitted to the bar in 1841, residing a while at Mt. Pleasant, and afterwards at Fairfield. He finally settled at Ottumwa, which became his permanent home. He was one of the best known among the early settlers of this State, and held several important public offices. He was appointed by Judge Charles Mason, Clerk of the District Court of Wapello county in 1844. While acting in this capacity he organized the county. In 1845 the Governor appointed him to the office of District Prosecutor for the Seventh District of Iowa. He was at one time Colonel of the 2d Regiment, 1st Brigade, 4th Division of the Iowa Militia. He also had charge of some important surveys of government lands. With Joseph G. Brown he acted as commissioner to settle the vexed question of the Missouri boundary. He served until the matter in dispute was considered settled. Years afterwards it was reopened and a settlement was only reached in quite recent times. Judge Hendershott represented Wapello, Monroe and Lucas counties in the State senate from 1850 to 1854, where he was chairman of the judiciary committee. In 1856 he was elected judge of the District Court of the Third Judicial District, in which position he won very distinguished credit. During all these years he had filled many other positions in the State, county and city, and was a man in whom the public reposed the largest confidence. As a speaker he was fluent, forcible and convincing, and an able supporter of education, morality and sobriety, enjoying the fullest confidence of all who knew him. A biographical sketch of Judge Hendershott, from the pen of Hon. E. H. Stiles, now of Kansas City, but many years ago reporter of the Supreme Court of Iowa, with his portrait, appeared in this magazine, Vol. 3, No. 8, pp. 624-630.

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THOMAS OFFICER was born near Little Washington, Washington county, Pennsylvania, December 28, 1822; he died at Council Bluffs, Iowa, September 12, 1900. He was a graduate of Washington-Jefferson College in 1839, and completed his education for the ministry at Princeton Theological



Seminary. His eyesight failing, however, he was compelled to relinquish all hope of following his chosen profession. Removing to Iowa he became associated with his brother-in-law, Hon. W. H. M. Pusey, in the banking and real estate business as early as 1857. Mr. Officer was early recognized as a leading business man of Western Iowa. He also acquired a commanding influence in the councils of the Presbyterian church and as an educator. He organized the first school in Council Bluffs and was an important factor in establishing the State Institution for the Deaf and Dumb in that city. In the matter of banking, Messrs. Officer and Pusey were especially fortunate. This was due to the confidence with which they were always regarded by the public and to their careful and conservative methods in the transaction of business. Their house went safely through the panic of 1857, and its reputation during all these forty-three years has remained of the highest character. From the pioneer days until his lamented death no citizen of Council Bluffs has been more influential in whatever pertained to the growth and progress of that enterprising city.

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JOEL M. WALKER was born in Pickaway county, Ohio, November 8, 1835; he died in Moscow, Idaho, July 5, 1900. In 1840 he removed with his parents to Fort Madison, Iowa. His education was obtained at the pioneer institution of Denmark Academy, Denmark, Iowa, and at an early age he was admitted to practice law in the Supreme Court. On the breaking out of the Civil War, he enlisted two hundred men and was himself elected first lieutenant, and later captain of Company B, 23d Iowa Infantry. He served with his company at Vicksburg and in other important battles. Soon after the war Captain Walker was appointed U. S. Marshal for Iowa by President Johnson. He afterwards engaged in stock-farming on a large scale. In 1882 he left this State and removed to Kansas, hoping to benefit his health. He was engaged in the loaning and banking business at Howard, Kansas, and afterwards in Kendrick and in Moscow, Idaho. He was influential in military, business and political circles wherever he resided. He was a leader in the Democratic party and was at one time candidate for United States Senator in Idaho.

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EUGENE A. CONSIGNÉY was born in St. Cesaire, Canada, May 15, 1841; he died at Manitou, Colorado, August 8, 1900. His grandfather, a French voyageur, settled in Montreal in 1790. His father, Antoine Consignéy, owing to civil war in Canada, settled for a time in Vermont, but returned to that country. By the death of his father, Mr. Consignéy's legal studies were interrupted and he engaged in mercantile life. When the war broke out, he enlisted in Company M, First Vermont Volunteers. He was in many important battles. He served as sergeant, orderly sergeant, second lieutenant, and was finally promoted to first lieutenant and then appointed adjutant of his regiment. Soon after the war he removed to Dubuque, Iowa, after two years to Cascade, and in 1872 to Avoca, where he afterward resided. He was prominent in the G. A. R. organization and at one time Department Commander in Iowa.

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MATTHIAS J. ROHLES died in Davenport, Iowa, September 5, 1900, at the age of eighty-four. He was a native of Schleswig-Holstein, Germany. He came to the United States in 1847, settling at Davenport. His expectation was to become a teacher, but he soon removed to a farm just out of the city. He was one of the leading citizens of Scott county for almost half a century. He served eight years in the Iowa House of Representatives, where he took a leading position. He was also for fourteen years county treasurer. During this time he was engaged in several successful business enterprises. At the start he conducted a German school and a singing society, and interested himself in whatever pertained to the gen-



eral culture of the people. While he was able to travel he was certain to attend the meetings of the Pioneer Law Makers of Iowa.

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DAVID BURKE HILLIS was born in Jefferson county, Indiana, July 24, 1825; he died at Keokuk, Iowa, September 9, 1900. He was educated at South Hanover College, Indiana, and graduated from a St. Louis medical college as a doctor of medicine in 1847. In 1860 he settled in Keokuk which was afterwards his home. In August, 1861, he was appointed aide-de-camp to Governor Kirkwood. In 1862 he was commissioned lieutenant-colonel of the 17th Iowa Infantry. Col. John W. Rankin resigned soon after and Dr. Hillis was appointed to the place. His regiment participated with great credit in the battles of Iuka, Corinth and Champion Hills. After the war he returned to Keokuk where he engaged in the practice of medicine, in which he achieved high distinction.

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CHANDLER CHILDS, a journalist, naturalist and geologist, who settled in Dubuque in 1853, died at Mercy Hospital, in that city, September 6, 1900. We have no particulars of his early years. He was well educated and a man of considerable ability, a collector of books, documents and newspapers, relating to the general and scientific history of his city and county and of that portion of the State generally. He had written much for the local press and was for many years widely known as a scientist. We believe he was at one time connected with the geological survey of Iowa. In his later years he became very poor, during which time he owed much to the kindly offices of U. S. Senator William B. Allison.

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RAYMOND M. KELLOGG was born near Rutland, Vermont, July 15, 1825; he died July 30, 1900, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. W. R. Moninger, near Galvin, Marshall county, Iowa. Mr. Kellogg was one of the early settlers of Grinnell, having located there in the summer of 1855. He became a leading citizen of that place. He was an expert builder; for a time served as U. S. collector of internal revenue; he was for several terms a member of the city council and for many years a director of the First National Bank. He took an active interest in politics and was a delegate to the first Iowa Republican State Convention in 1856.

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SAMUEL J. GILPIN was born at New London, Ohio, June 11, 1837; he died at Winterset, Iowa, July 28, 1900. When the Civil War broke out he enlisted in Company E, Third Indiana Cavalry. He was with the Army of the Potomac in many engagements and served until the close of the war. He then resumed his interrupted studies and graduated from South Hanover College, Indiana. In 1868 he removed to Winterset and began the practice of the law. He was for years a leading citizen of that county, taking a prominent part in public affairs. He was well known in political circles throughout the State.

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LORENZO D. LEWELLING was born in Salem, Iowa, December 21, 1846; he died at Arkansas City, Kansas, September 2, 1900. Mr. Lewelling resided in this State until 1887, when he settled in Wichita, Kansas. With his wife he had charge of the Iowa State Reform School for Girls for fifteen years. He was the first Populist governor of his adopted State, having been elected for the term of 1893-5. His administration was a stormy one, the history of which would fill a large volume.

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CARL ROHL-SMITH, the distinguished Danish sculptor, died in Copenhagen, September 23, 1900. He resided some years in Chicago, during which time he developed Mrs. Harriet Ketchum's sketch for the Iowa Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument, and also executed the art work, statues,

bas-reliefs, medallions, etc., which adorn that imposing pillar. *The Iowa Capital* of August 25, 1900, contained a lengthy sketch of the career of this "great artist," as he was happily characterized by Ex-Governor Frank D. Jackson.

TALMON WILTSEY was born in Otsego, New York, August 23, 1823; he died at Webster City, Iowa, August 28, 1900. He came to Webster City in 1854, and at the time of his death was the oldest pioneer in that county. He built the second log house on the town plat. *The Freeman* says that "Mr. Wiltsey was a true type of the sturdy pioneer, plain in manner, fair in his dealings, and honorable in all business transactions."

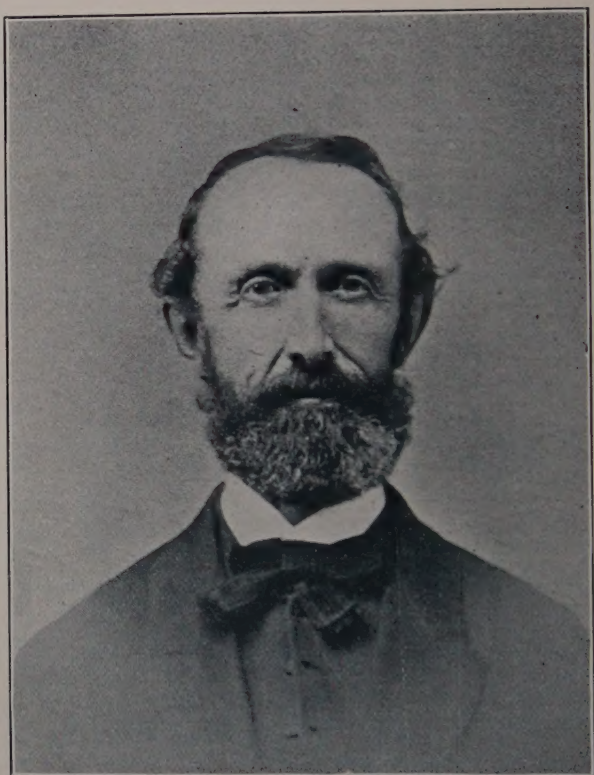
GILBERT P. SMITH was born in Danby, Vermont, September 19, 1812; he died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. G. J. Maris, in Guthrie county, Iowa, July 19, 1900. He came to Iowa in 1853 and settled on a farm in Cedar county, where most of his subsequent life was spent. He was an influential member of the Society of Friends and devoted to its interests to the end of his long and useful life.

### AT THE TOMB OF FLOYD.

The exercises attending the laying of the corner stone of the Floyd monument, yesterday afternoon, were exceedingly interesting. President Charles, of the Floyd Memorial Association, was in general charge, but the ceremonies were conducted by the Grand Army, assisted by the younger soldiers of the militia, under the direction of Commander Davis, of the department of Iowa. The sun was overly warm, but the visitors made the best of the discomfort of the heat, and the interest in the proceedings was unabated throughout. It was entirely fitting that the volunteer soldiers should have charge of the ceremony of laying this corner stone. Sergeant Floyd was himself a volunteer soldier, and ninety-six years ago he was laid away here, to await the resurrection and the honor of this later time. After all these years, for the most part unattended save by the vast solitude of the wilderness, a noble shaft is to be erected to his memory. Yesterday was a happy day for the active members of the association which has had the work of this monument in charge. They have found a charm in the history of the Lewis and Clark expedition, and the magnitude of the historical epoch which has the Louisiana purchase for its culminating event has grown upon them, so that yesterday was particularly a day of celebration with them. The expedition of 1804 has drifted into a dream, and it is a dream in which the imagination runs riot with history and with poetry. An August day now is not different from an August day then, except in what the landscape discloses of the work and life of man. Then the sun shone down upon hill and vale spread out as a bordered lake untouched by the habitation or the industry of men; and yesterday it shone down upon a multitude of people, looking forth upon the city and upon a pastoral scene of wondrous beauty. No sound then disturbed the solitude; but yesterday there was the rattle of the railroad train at the foot of the bluff, and hard by the busy husbandmen were bearing away the golden sheaves of the year. There is no measure that the mind can place to cover the wondrous transformation which the century has wrought. What homage is too great for this prosperous and happy people to render the volunteers in that early time who blazed the way? Sergeant Floyd is our hero. He is our pioneer soldier of the Louisiana purchase. The shaft to his memory will be a shaft to the memory of many. It will be more than that. It will reflect the light of years and years to come and be a teacher to many generations.—*Sioux City Journal*, August 21, 1900.







*Your affectionate father*  
*Geo. Wilson*

FIRST LIEUTENANT GEORGE WILSON.

Graduated from West Point July 1, 1830. Served in the Black Hawk War, and participated in the battle of Bad Axe River, Aug. 2, 1862. Resigned Dec. 31, 1837. Member Wisconsin House Reps., 1838-9, and later held many civil offices in Iowa.